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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## 2017 OUTLAND TROPHY WATCH LIST UNVEILED

**DALLAS (FWAA)** — The **Football Writers Association of America** announced its **2017 Outland Trophy Watch List** on Thursday, with 81 standout interior linemen from all 10 Division I FBS conferences represented.

Two of the three 2016 Outland Trophy finalists are on the 2017 watch list – Washington State’s senior offensive guard Cody O’Connell and Texas junior offensive tackle Connor Williams. Both were first-team FWAA All-Americans in 2016 and finished behind Alabama offensive tackle Cam Robinson, who claimed the 2016 Outland Trophy and was selected in the second round of the 2017 NFL Draft (No. 34 overall) by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

In addition, there are four other 2016 FWAA All-Americans on the 2017 Outland Trophy Watch List: Clemson defensive tackle Christian Wilkins (first team), and Washington offensive tackle Trey Adams, Oklahoma offensive tackle Orlando Brown and Houston defensive tackle Ed Oliver from the second team.

The ACC (17) led all conferences with members on the Watch List, followed by the Big Ten and SEC (11 each), Pac-12 (10), American Athletic (9), Big 12 and Mid-American (6 each), Independents and Mountain West (4 each), Conference USA (2) and Sun Belt (1).

The list includes 24 offensive tackles, 21 defensive tackles, 20 centers and 16 offensive guards.

The Outland Trophy winner is chosen from three finalists who are a part of the annual FWAA All-America Team. The FWAA All-America Committee, after voting input from the entire membership, selects a 26-man first team and eventually the three Outland finalists. Committee members, then by individual ballot, select the winner. Only interior linemen on offense or defense are eligible for the award; ends are not eligible.

The list will be trimmed to six or seven semifinalists on Wed, Nov. 15. Six days later, three Outland Trophy finalists will be named by the FWAA. The winner of the 72nd Outland Trophy – named after the late John Outland, an All-America lineman at Penn at the turn of the 20th century, will be announced live on ESPN at The Home Depot College Football Awards on Thurs., Dec. 7. For the third straight year, the show will air from the National Football Foundation’s College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

The Outland Trophy presentation banquet, sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee, will be held on Jan. 10, 2018 in Omaha, Neb. Former Florida State coach Bobby Bowden will receive the Tom Osborne Legacy Award at the same banquet.

The Outland Trophy is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA)**, which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 23 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit [ncfaa.org](http://ncfaa.org) to learn more about our story.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a two-week period this month. Sixteen of the association’s 23 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award’s preseason candidates. Following is the complete 2017 preseason watch list calendar:

Mon., July 10: Bednarik Award/Maxwell Award	Mon., July 17: Butkus Award/Paul Hornung Award
Tues., July 11: Mackey Award/Rimington Trophy	Tues., July 18: Biletnikoff Award/Wuerffel Trophy
Wed., July 12: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award	Wed., July 19: Davey O’Brien Award
Thurs., July 13: Bronko Nagurski Trophy/Outland Trophy	Thurs., July 20: Doak Walker Award
Fri., July 14: Jim Thorpe Award	Fri., July 21: Walter Camp Award

The **Football Writers Association of America**, founded in 1941, consists of 1,400 men and women who cover college football. The membership includes journalists, broadcasters and publicists, as well as key executives in all the areas that involve the game. The FWAA works to govern areas that include game-day operations, major awards and its annual All-America team. For more information about the FWAA and its award programs, contact Steve Richardson at [tiger@fwaa.com](mailto:tiger@fwaa.com).



# 2017 OUTLAND TROPHY PRESEASON WATCH LIST

The **Outland Trophy** is presented to the nation's most outstanding interior lineman by the **Football Writers Association of America**

## **CENTERS (20)**

Brian Allen, Michigan State  
Jake Bennett, Colorado State  
Bradley Bozeman, Alabama  
Evan Brown, SMU  
Will Clapp, LSU  
Mason Cole, Michigan  
James Daniels, Iowa  
Austin Davis, Duke  
Michael Deiter, Wisconsin  
Alec Eberle, Florida State  
John Keenoy, Western Michigan  
Tejan Koroma, BYU  
Chandler Miller, Tulsa  
Alex Officer, Pitt  
Billy Price, Ohio State  
Jake Pruehs, Ohio  
Scott Quessenberry, UCLA  
Frank Ragnow, Arkansas  
Austin Schlottmann, TCU  
Coleman Shelton, Washington

## **OFFENSIVE GUARDS (16)**

Tony Adams, N.C. State  
Beau Benzschawel, Wisconsin  
Kyle Bosch, West Virginia  
Parker Braun, Georgia Tech  
Tyrone Crowder, Clemson  
O'Shea Dugas, Louisiana Tech  
Hjalte Froholdt, Arkansas  
Colby Gossett, Appalachian State  
Will Hernandez, UTEP  
Gabe Kuhn, Memphis  
Jimmy Leatiota, Eastern Michigan  
Evan Martin, Navy  
Quenton Nelson, Notre Dame  
Cody O'Connell, Washington State  
Jashon Robertson, Tennessee  
Sean Welsh, Iowa

## **OFFENSIVE TACKLES (24)**

Trey Adams, Washington  
Orlando Brown, Oklahoma  
Geron Christian, Louisville

Austin Corbett, Nevada  
Tyrell Crosby, Oregon  
Nick Gates, Nebraska  
Mitch Hyatt, Clemson  
Martez Ivey, Florida  
Jamarco Jones, Ohio State  
Archie Lewis, Boise State  
Evan Lisle, Duke  
Greg Little, Ole Miss  
Mike McGlinchey, Notre Dame  
Elijah Nkansah, Toledo  
Brian O'Neill, Pitt  
Chukwuma Okorafor, Western Michigan  
Evan Plagg, Tulsa  
Dalton Risner, Kansas State  
Max Scharping, NIU  
Braden Smith, Auburn  
Bentley Spain, North Carolina  
Brett Toth, Army West Point  
Connor Williams, Texas  
Jonah Williams, Alabama

## **DEFENSIVE TACKLES (21)**

Drew Bailey, Louisville  
Folorunso Fatukasi, UConn  
Greg Gaines, Washington  
Will Geary, Kansas State  
Rasheem Green, USC  
B.J. Hill, N.C. State  
Maurice Hurst, Michigan  
Dexter Lawrence, Clemson  
Lowell Lotulelei, Utah  
David Moady, Boise State  
Derrick Nnadi, Florida State  
Kendrick Norton, Miami  
Ed Oliver, Houston  
Da'Ron Payne, Alabama  
Harrison Phillips, Stanford  
Jamiyus Pittman, UCF  
Steven Richardson, Minnesota  
Deadrin Senat, USF  
Trent Thompson, Georgia  
Vita Vea, Washington  
Christian Wilkins, Clemson

**By conference (81):** ACC (17), Big Ten (11), SEC (11), Pac-12 (10), American Athletic (9), Big 12 (6), Mid-American (6), Independents (4), Mountain West (4), Conference USA (2), Sun Belt (1).