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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, 19 centers and 17 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 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
Tues., July 11: Mackey Award/Rimington Trophy
Wed., July 12: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award
Thurs., July 13: Bronko Nagurski Trophy/Outland Trophy
Fri., July 14: Jim Thorpe Award

Mon., July 17: Butkus Award/Paul Hornung Award
Tues., July 18: Biletnikoff Award/Wuerffel Trophy
Wed., July 19: Davey O’Brien Award
Thurs., July 20: Doak Walker 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.



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 (19)

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
Alex Eberle, Florida State
John Keenoy, Western Michigan
Tejan Koroma, BYU
Chandler Miller, Tulsa
Alex Officer, Pitt
Jake Pruehs, Ohio
Scott Quessenberry, UCLA
Frank Ragnow, Arkansas
Austin Schlottmann, TCU
Coleman Shelton, Washington
Coleman Thomas, Tennessee

OFFENSIVE GUARDS (17)

Tony Adams, N.C. State
Brian Allen, Michigan 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
Billy Price, Ohio State
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 Moad, 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).