

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Football Candidates Announced for the 2016 Senior CLASS Award

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (October 12, 2016) – Thirty NCAA® Football Bowl Subdivision student-athletes who excel both on and off the field were selected today as candidates for the 2016 Senior CLASS Award® in collegiate football along with the Senior CLASS Award's first-ever honorary nominee. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I FBS senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition. The complete list of candidates follows this release.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*®, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

Of the 30 candidates, 18 have grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher with seven of those holding above a 3.5. Five are returning All-Americans, and 22 were all-conference selections in 2016. Outside of academics and athletics, all candidates have been consistently involved in community service on their campus or in their communities.

This year, the Senior CLASS Award also will honor deceased Nebraska student-athlete Sam Foltz by making him an honorary candidate. The 2015 Big Ten Punter of the Year and a preseason candidate for the Ray Guy Award, Foltz was killed in an automobile accident on July 23, 2016, after attending a kicking camp in Wisconsin. A standout on the field as well as in the classroom and community, Foltz was a five-time member of the Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll, a member of both the Brook Berringer and Tom Osborne Citizenship teams, and earlier this year was awarded a Nebraska Student-Athlete HERO Leadership Award, which recognizes exceptional leadership, consistent and dedicated community service and positive influence on the team.

To determine the final Senior CLASS Award winner, the 30 candidates will be narrowed to 10 finalists midway through the regular season, and those names will be placed on the official ballot. Ballots will be distributed through a nationwide voting system to media, coaches and fans, who will select one candidate who best exemplifies excellence in the four Cs of community, classroom, character and competition. Along with the winner, the 10 finalists will be awarded Senior CLASS Award first- or second-team honors.

The Senior CLASS Award winner will be announced during the football bowl season in early January. For more information on the candidates, visit seniorCLASSaward.com.

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Football Candidates

Zach Banner, Southern California	Skyler Howard, West Virginia
Adam Bisnowaty, Pittsburgh	Ryan Janvion, Wake Forest
Matt Breida, Georgia Southern	Zay Jones, East Carolina
Richie Brown, Mississippi State	Chad Kelly, Ole Miss
Roman Buchanan, South Alabama	KeVonn Mabon, Ball State
Joe Burger, Ohio State	Viliami Moeakiola, Arizona State
Jake Butt, Michigan	Tyler Orlosky, West Virginia
Mike Caprara, Pittsburgh	Mitchell Paige, Indiana
Nick Cuthbert, Kent State	Josiah Price, Michigan State
DeVon Edwards, Duke	Travis Seefeldt, Utah State
Jake Elliott, Memphis	Fish Smithson, Kansas
Evan Ingram, Ole Miss	Weston Steelhammer, Air Force
Dane Evans, Tulsa	Justin Vogel, Miami (FL)
Jordan Evans, Oklahoma	Greg Ward Jr., Houston
O.J. Howard, Alabama	Tre'Davious White, Louisiana State
	Sam Foltz, Nebraska (Honorary)

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ABOUT THE AWARD

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Senior CLASS Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition. The award program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the many rewards a senior season can bring. Premier Sports Management manages the award.

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