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JIM THORPE AWARD NAMES 2015 PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Oklahoma City—The **Jim Thorpe Award** 2015 watch list announced today includes 42 of the nation's best defensive backs, representing eleven conferences.

The Jim Thorpe Award is one of the most coveted awards in college football. The award was established in 1986 and is named after history's greatest all-around athlete, Jim Thorpe. Thorpe excelled as a running back, passer and kicker on the offensive side of the ball, but also stood out as a defensive back. In addition to his legendary performance on the football field, Thorpe played professional baseball and won Olympic gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon.

The **Jim Thorpe Award** watch list is chosen by a screening committee who compile a list of 30-50 players. The list is not final, and players who have outstanding seasons are added as the season progresses. The Thorpe Award Winner is selected from three finalists and will be announced at The Home Depot College Football Awards on Thursday, December 10, 2015 on ESPN.

The Jim Thorpe Award Banquet will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 in Oklahoma City, OK.

The Jim Thorpe Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA) which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. The 22 awards boast over 700 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit www.NCFAA.org to learn more about our story.

Beginning in 2015, The Home Depot College Football Awards will have a new home at the College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience in downtown Atlanta. Airing live on ESPN on December 10, 2015, college football's brightest stars will be honored for their performance on and off the field.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 12-day period this month. Sixteen of the association's 22 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 2015 preseason watch list calendar:

Tues., July 7: Bednarik Award / Maxwell Award

Wed., July 8: Mackey Award / Rimington Trophy

Thurs., July 9: Lou Groza Award / Ray Guy Award

Fri., July 10: Bronko Nagurski Trophy / Outland Trophy

Mon., July 13: Jim Thorpe Award

Tues., July 14: Butkus Award / Rotary Lombardi Award

Wed., July 15: Biletnikoff Award / Wuerffel Trophy

Thurs., July 16: Davey O'Brien Award / Doak Walker Award

Fri., July 17: Walter Camp Award

2015 Jim Thorpe Award Preseason Watch List

Ishmael Adams, UCLA, Jr.	Montres Kitchens, Troy, Sr.
Mackensie Alexander, Clemson, So.	Mitch Lane, ULM, Sr.
Tony Annese, Central Michigan, Jr.	Richard Leonard, FIU, Sr.
Budda Baker, Washington, So.	William Likely, Maryland, Jr.
Adairius Barnes, Louisiana Tech, Sr.	Paris Logan, Northern Illinois, Sr.
Dante Barnett, Kansas St., Sr.	Trent Matthews, Colorado St., Sr.
Vonn Bell, Ohio State, Jr.	Adrian McDonald, Houston, Sr.
Quin Blanding, Virginia, So.	Doug Middleton, Appalachian St. Sr.
Kevin Byard, Middle Tennessee, Sr.	David Mims II, Texas St., Sr.
Michael Caputo, Wisconsin, Sr.	Fabian Moreau, UCLA, Sr.
Jeremy Cash, Duke, Sr.	Parry Nickerson, Tulane, So.
Tony Conner, Ole Miss, Jr.	Kevin Peterson, Oklahoma St., Sr.
Donte Deayon, Boise St., Sr.	Jalen Ramsey, Florida State, Jr.
Kendall Fuller, Va. Tech, Jr.	Max Redfield, Notre Dame, Jr.
Vernon Hargreaves III, Florida, Jr.	Zack Sanchez, Oklahoma, Jr.
Nate Holley, Kent St., Jr.	Jordan Simone, Arizona St.
Adoree' Jackson, USC, So.	Weston Steelhammer, Air Force, Jr.
William Jackson, Houston, Sr.	Darian Thompson, Boise St., Sr.
Randall Jette, UMass, Sr.	JJ Whittaker, SDSU, Sr.
Jonathan Jones, Auburn, Sr.	Xavier Woods, Louisiana Tech, Jr.
Karl Joseph, West Virginia, Sr.	
Damontae Kazee, SDSU, Jr.	

By Conference: AAC (3), ACC (5), BIG 10 (3), BIG 12 (4), CUSA (4), IND (1), MAC (4), MWC (6), PAC 12 (5), SEC (3), Sun Belt (4)

The Jim Thorpe Award is presented to the Best Defensive Back in College Football by the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

