

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



**OUTLAND TROPHY AWARD DINNER
SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 10, 2018**

For the 21st consecutive year, the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) has awarded Omaha the Outland Trophy Award Dinner presentation. This Year the Outland Trophy Award Dinner will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska.

The Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards announced on ESPN Thursday, Dec. 7, from the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, GA, that **Ed Oliver from the University of Houston**, is the winner of the 2017 Outland Trophy. This year's winner and his coach will be in attendance at the Dinner on January 10th.

The FWAA awarded the Outland Trophy Award Dinner to the Greater Omaha Sports Committee in 1997. Since that time the Sports Committee has presented the Outland Trophy to Aaron Taylor – NU ('97), Kris Farris –UCLA ('98), Chris Samuels –Alabama ('99), John Henderson –University of Tennessee (2000), Bryant McKinnie –University of Miami (2001), Rien Long –Washington State University (2002), Robert Gallery - University of Iowa (2003), Jammal Brown – University of Oklahoma (2004), Greg Eslinger - University of Minnesota (2005) - Joe Thomas, University of Wisconsin (2006), Glenn Dorsey, Louisiana State University (2007), Andre Smith, University of Alabama (2008), Ndamukong Suh, University of Nebraska (2009), Gabe Carimi, University of Wisconsin (2010), Barrett Jones, University of Alabama (2011), Luke Joeckel, Texas A&M University (2012), Aaron Donald, University of Pittsburgh (2013), Brandon Scherff, University of Iowa (2014), Joshua Garnett, Stanford University (2015), and last year to Cam Robinson, University of Alabama (2016).

Since the Outland Trophy winners from 1946 through 1987 received only plaques – they did not receive the authentic Outland Trophy, Downtown Rotary has presented Authentic Outland Trophies to the following past recipients: George Connor, Notre Dame, the first recipient ('46); Larry Jacobson, NU ('71); Rich Glover, NU ('72); Dave Rimington, NU, ('81-'82); Dean Steinkuhler, NU ('83); Mark May, University of Pittsburgh ('80); Chad Hennings, Air Force Academy ('87); Joe Steffy, West Point Military Academy ('47), Ron Yary, USC ('67), Bill Fischer, Notre Dame ('48), Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma ('75), J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma ('53), John Hicks, Ohio State ('73), Mike McGee, Duke ('59), Bobby Bell, University of Minnesota ('62), Loyd Phillips, University of Arkansas ('66), Jim Ritcher from North Carolina State ('79), Ross Browner from Notre Dame ('76), Randy White from Maryland ('74), and last year we presented **Greg Roberts, Oklahoma ('78)** his authentic Outland Trophy Award.

Also appearing at the dinner for the 20th straight year will be the winners of Nebraska's football senior awards **Tom Novak Trophy -Chris Weber**, given annually to the senior who “best exemplifies courage and determination despite all odds.” **Guy Chamberlin Trophy - Drew Brown**, which goes to the senior “who has shown by his play on and off-field contributions to the betterment of the Nebraska football squad in the tradition of Guy Chamberlin” and **Cletus Fischer Native Son Award - Luke McNitt**, given annually by the coaches to the player who “best exemplifies good work ethic, competitiveness, leadership, pride and love of Nebraska”.

The 4th Annual Tom Osborne Legacy Award will also be presented to **Bobby Bowden**, former head football coach from the University of Florida State at the Outland Trophy Award Dinner. The Tom Osborne Legacy Award is awarded for making extraordinary contributions to the Outland Trophy

and to the interior line play in college football; for exhibiting the characteristics of integrity, sportsmanship and fair play associated with Tom Osborne; for demonstrating a record of leadership and good citizenship in the community that's consistent with Rotary International's primary motto, "Service Above Self". This award has been presented to Milt Tenopir, Coach from University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Jim Ridlon, Sr., from the University of Syracuse and last year to Barry Switzer former head football coach from the University of Oklahoma.

The Outland Trophy is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA), which was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game's predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients. For more information, visit the association's official website, www.NCFAA.org.

The **Football Writers Association of America**, a non-profit organization founded in 1941, consists of more than 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 or 972-713-6198.

The **Greater Omaha Sports Committee**, founded in 1977, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, consisting of more than 900 men and women from the City of Omaha, the State of Nebraska, and others. The membership serves to communicate, develop, initiate and promote sports activities in the Greater Omaha sports area. In addition to the Outland Trophy Award Dinner, the Greater Omaha Sports Committee promotes high school, college, and professional sports in the Greater Omaha area and the Midwest.

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**Sponsored By: The Greater Omaha Sports Committee
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