

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Solich Will Receive Tom Osborne Legacy Award**

OMAHA\_ Frank Solich, former University of Nebraska head football coach from 1998-2003 and current Ohio University head football coach, will return to Nebraska for the Outland Trophy Award Dinner on Jan. 9, 2019 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel. The 73-year-old Solich will accept the fifth annual Tom Osborne Legacy Award from his former boss.



For the 22nd consecutive year the prestigious award dinner will be held in Omaha where the Outland Trophy will be presented to the 2018 winner. The best interior linemen in college football, as selected by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA), will be announced on ESPN on Dec. 6, 2018 during the Home Depot College Football Awards Show from the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

“First as a player, then as an assistant, and finally as the head coach of the Cornhuskers, Frank Solich has been part of the fabric of Nebraska’s highly successful football history,” said FWAA Executive Director Steve Richardson. “What better person to honor than one of Tom Osborne’s proteges who has transferred his ability to coach winning football to Ohio University. Frank Solich certainly needs no introduction to Cornhusker football fans, given his excellent track record during the past six decades.”

The Tom Osborne Legacy Award is presented to a person for making extraordinary contributions to the Outland Trophy and to 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”.

Previous winners of the Tom Osborne Legacy Award: former Nebraska assistant coach Milt Tenopir, Outland Trophy sculptor Jim Ridlon, former Oklahoma football coach Barry Switzer and former Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden.

At Nebraska, Solich was an All-Big Eight fullback from 1963-65 under legendary coach Bob Devaney. After a successful high school coaching career in Omaha, Solich became an assistant under Osborne in 1979. During nine of the 15 seasons Solich was the NU running backs coach, the Cornhuskers led the nation in rushing. As head coach of the Cornhuskers, Solich was named Big 12 Coach of the Year in 1999 and 2001. He led Nebraska to victory totals of 12, 11 and 10 in three seasons and nine victories in two others.

During his tenure at Ohio (starting in 2005), Solich has led the Bobcats to five straight bowl games from 2009-2013 and the school to its first bowl victory in 2011. He has been named MAC Coach of the Year once and advanced to the Mid-American Conference title game four times. The Bobcats have been to nine bowls under Solich.

Also on hand in Omaha this coming January will be Greg Sharpe, the radio voice of the Cornhuskers who will emcee the dinner where Nebraska senior awards will be presented: the Tom Novak Trophy, Guy Chamberlin Trophy and Cletus Fischer Native Son Award.

Additionally, the Outland Trophy semifinalists announcement reception will be held in Omaha on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018 at the Old Mattress Factory in Downtown Omaha.

For more information on the Outland Trophy Award Dinner and the Outland Semifinalists Reception contact – Bob Mancuso, Jr, Chairman - Greater Omaha Sports Committee at 402-346-8003 or email [bmancuso@showofficeonline.com](mailto:bmancuso@showofficeonline.com)

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 **Football Writers Association of America**, founded in 1941, consists of 1,300 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@fwa.com](mailto:tiger@fwa.com).

**The Greater Omaha Sports Committee**, founded in 1977, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, consisting of more than 1000 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.

***For Additional Information, Contact:***

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