

2017 Outland Trophy Semifinalists

Embargoed to go out at 8 p.m. (Central) Thursday



OMAHA – Six semifinalists for the **2017 Outland Trophy** announced on Thursday night during a reception hosted by the **Greater Omaha Sports Committee**.

The Football Writers Association of America (FWAA), in a call of its 2017 All-America Committee, has determined the following six players as semifinalists for the award, in alphabetical order: Orlando Brown, Offensive Tackle - Oklahoma; Mike McGlinchey, Offensive Tackle - Notre Dame; Quenton Nelson, Offensive Guard -Notre Dame; Chukwuma Okorafor, Offensive Tackle - Western Michigan; Ed Oliver, Defensive Tackle - Houston; Billy Price, Center - Ohio State.

The field for the Outland Trophy, which is awarded to the best interior lineman in college football on offense or defense, will be reduced to three players early next week. Those finalists will be announced the evening of Nov. 21. The winner of the 72nd Outland Trophy will be revealed on Dec. 7, from on ESPNU on The Home Depot College Football Awards, from the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

The current candidates ...

Orlando Brown, Offensive Tackle - Oklahoma (6'8" - 345 lbs., Redshirt Junior, Peachtree Ridge High School, Duluth, GA)

2017 - Has started all 10 games at left tackle / Midseason All-American by the AP, The Athletic, CBS, ESPN, Sporting News and USA Today.

2016 - Named second-team All-American by AP and FWAA ... voted 2016 Big 12 Offensive Lineman of the Year by league's coaches (first sophomore to win the award since it was introduced in 2006 and the second Sooner to win [Jon Cooper in 2008]) ... named first-team All-Big 12 by league's coaches and AP ... started all 13 games at left tackle ... played 659 snaps and surrendered just one sack.

2015 - Named a Freshman All-American by Sporting News ... selected to All-Big 12 Second Team by ESPN.com ... Third Team All-Big 12 honoree by Phil Steele ... tabbed All-Big 12 Honorable Mention by league's coaches ... started all 13 games at left tackle ... made Sooners debut with start at left tackle in season opener against Akron (9/5), becoming one of 10 freshmen in OU history to start a game at offensive tackle.

2014 - Redshirted.

HIGH SCHOOL - Three-star recruit by ESPN, 247Sports, Scout and Rivals ... No. 35 offensive tackle (ESPN) ... No. 29 offensive tackle (247Sports) ... held offers from Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, and Tennessee.

Mike McGlinchey, Offensive Tackle - Notre Dame (6'8 1/4" - 315 lbs., Graduate Student, William Penn Charter High School, Philadelphia, PA)

Mike is the 22nd different two-time captain in Notre Dame football history, has started 36 consecutive games for the Irish at eight right or left tackle. In 2017, he's started all 10 games at left tackle and ranks as the second-highest rated offensive tackle in the country by Pro Football Focus (33.5). McGlinchey is the highest-rated offensive tackle in terms of run blocking in the country by Pro Football Focus (26.3) -- next highest-rated run-blocking tackle sits at 23.1. He's part of the offensive line that paves the way for the second-best FBS rushing attack in yards/carry (6.72), fifth-best in rushing TDs (35), fifth-best in total rushing yards (3,032) and sixth-best in rushing offense (303.2 rush yards/game). Notre Dame has rushed for at least 300 yards in seven of its 10 games this season. McGlinchey was earned midseason All-America honors from Sports Illustrated (1st) and Associated Press (2nd).

Quenton Nelson, Offensive Guard -Notre Dame (6'5" - 330 lbs., Senior, Red Bank Catholic High School, Holmdel, NJ)

Notre Dame's 2016 Offensive Lineman of the Year, has started 33 times in his 34-game, three-year playing career. In 2017, he's started all 10 games at left guard and ranks as the highest-rated offensive guard in the country by Pro Football Focus (42.2) -- next highest-rated guard sits at 35.0. Nelson has not surrendered a sack or QB hit, and allowed just two QB hurries in 693 offensive snaps this season. In fact, over his career (1,543 snaps), Nelson has surrendered just three sacks, none in the last two years, and three quarterback hits, one in the last two years, over his Irish career. He's the highest-rated offensive guard in terms of run blocking in the country by Pro Football Focus (30.4) -- next highest-rated run-blocking guard sits at 24.1. Nelson's part of the offensive line that paves the way for the second-best FBS rushing attack in yards/carry (6.72), fifth-best in rushing TDs (35), fifth-best in total rushing yards (3,032) and sixth-best in rushing offense (303.2 rush yards/game). Notre Dame has rushed for at least 300 yards in seven of its 10 games this season. McGlinchey was earned midseason All-America honors from Sports Illustrated (1st) and Associated Press (2nd).

Chukwuma Okorafor, Offensive Tackle - Western Michigan (6'5" - 330 lbs., Senior, Southfield High School, Southfield, MI)

Named 2017 No. 4 Tackle to Watch by Mel Kiper • Named 2016 First-Team All-MAC
WMU leads the MAC and ranks 13th in the nation with 249.4 rushing yards per game

2016 – Junior: Started all 14 games at left tackle.

Moved to left tackle after playing right tackle last year and again at right tackle in 2014. Was part of a Bronco offensive line that was ranked No. 4 in the country by Pro Football Focus. The team finished 24th in the country this season in rushing offense and allowed just 16 sacks on the year, the 13th fewest total in the country. Opened holes for team to run for over 300 yards three times. Paved the way for Jarvion Franklin to rush for a WMU program-record 281 yards on the ground at Akron (10/15).

2015 – Sophomore: Started all 13 games at right tackle. Helped pave the way for 401 yards rushing against Ohio (10/17) in the second half. Blocked for the MAC Freshman of the Year and Popeyes Bahamas Bowl MVP Jamauri Bogan who finished with 1,051 rushing yards and 16 TDs on the season. As a team, the Broncos were second in the MAC and 29th in the country with 204.6 yards per game on the ground.

2014 – Freshman: Played in 12 games.

Ed Oliver, Defensive Tackle - Houston (6'-3" - 290 lbs., Sophomore, Westfield High School, Houston, TX)

One of the nation's most dominant defensive players while playing nose tackle in a three-man defensive front ... named preseason All-American by the AP and SI ... midseason All-American by five national outlets ... on watch lists for five different national awards ... named a Bednarik Award semifinalist ... currently leads the nation with a career average of 1.48 tackles for loss per game ... also fifth in career average of 0.23 forced fumbles per game ... has 33 tackles for loss in only 22 career games ... leads Houston with 10 TFLs, 2.5 sacks, seven quarterback hurries, two forced fumbles and one blocked kick ... third on the team with 53 tackles despite missing three quarters of one game and being limited in three other games with a knee injury ... third among all defensive tackles nationally with 53 tackles.

Billy Price, Center - Ohio State (6'4" - 312 lbs., Senior, Fitch High School, Austintown, OH)

Ohio State fifth-year senior Billy Price is a returning, first-team All-American from the 2016 season when the American Football Coaches Association selected him as an All-American. He was named a mid-season All-American by the Associated Press this year and is one of the top candidates for the Outland Trophy, the Rimington Trophy and the Lombardi Award. The two-time team captain is in his fourth-year as a starter and last week he set the Ohio State school record with his 51st consecutive start. He is the leader of an offensive line that has the Buckeyes ranked nationally No. 3 in total offense, No. 5 in scoring, No. 17 in passing and No. 17 in rushing. The team is No. 1 in the Big Ten in all four categories. An Ohio State graduate with a degree in business administration, Price has been already been accepted into Ohio State's prestigious Fisher College of Business MBA program.

The **Outland Trophy**, which has been awarded annually by the FWAA since 1946, is named after the late John Outland, an All-America lineman at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1900s. The Outland Trophy is the third-oldest award in major college football behind the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award.

For the 21st consecutive year, the presentation banquet of the Outland Trophy will occur in Omaha. The official 2017 Outland Trophy presentation to the winner will be on Jan. 10, 2017 at a banquet sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee.

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 300 men and women from the City of Omaha and the State of Nebraska. The membership serves to communicate, develop, initiate and promote sports activities in the Greater Omaha sports area.

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