

Press Release

July 10, 2017 Philadelphia, PA

The Maxwell Football Club today announced its watch lists for the 81st annual Maxwell Award and the 23rd annual Chuck Bednarik Award.

The Maxwell Award, named in honor of Robert W. "Tiny" Maxwell, has been given to America's College Player of the Year since 1937. Maxwell's contributions to the game of football were extensive, including time as a player, a sportswriter and an official. The Bednarik Award has been presented to the College Defensive Player of the Year since 1995. Chuck Bednarik, former standout at Penn and with the Philadelphia Eagles, is a member of both the College Football Hall of Fame's Class of '69 and the NFL Hall of Fame's Class of '67.

The watch lists will once again incorporate a broad spectrum of Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) programs and conferences from coast to coast. Returning Maxwell Award winner Lamar Jackson (Louisville) headlines the way for the 2017 watch list class. Alabama and Texas lead the pack with four and three Maxwell Award candidates, respectively, as the season approaches.

The Chuck Bednarik Award watch list features fresh faces, as 2016 finalists Jonathan Allen (Alabama), Myles Garrett (Texas A&M), and Jabril Peppers (Michigan) have all moved on to the NFL. Ohio State checks in with a quartet of Buckeye defenders; Nick Bosa, Tyquan Lewis, Denzel Ward and Jerome Baker. Meanwhile, Florida State and USC are strongly represented by four and three candidates, respectively.

Jackson capped a brilliant season at Louisville by becoming the first player in school history to win the Maxwell Award. Allen, the 2016 Bednarik Award winner, was also the first Alabama player to win the award. Allen was a first round NFL Draft pick of the Washington Redskins, while Jackson returns for his junior season.

The Maxwell and Bednarik Awards are members of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA) which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. The 23 awards boast over 745 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit www.NCFAA.org to learn more about our story.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 12-day period this month. Seventeen of the association's 23 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the entire 2016 preseason watch list calendar:

Monday July 10:	Bednarik Award / Maxwell Award
Tuesday July 11	Mackey Award / Rimington Trophy
Wednesday July 12	Lou Groza Award / Ray Guy Award
Thursday July 13	Bronko Nagurski Trophy / Outland Trophy
Friday July 14	Jim Thorpe Award
Monday July 17	Butkus Award / Paul Hornung Award
Tuesday July 18	Biletnikoff Award / Wuerffel Trophy
Wednesday July 19	Davey O'Brien Award
Thursday July 20	Doak Walker Award
Friday July 21	Walter Camp Award

Semifinalists for the Maxwell and Bednarik Awards will be announced October 30, 2017, while the three finalists for each award will be unveiled November 20, 2017. The winners of the 2017 Maxwell and Bednarik Awards will be announced as part of the Home Depot College Football Awards Show held on December 7, 2017. The formal presentations of these awards will be made at the Maxwell Football Club Awards Gala hosted by Tropicana Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on March 9, 2018.

Questions concerning the 2017 Maxwell & Bednarik Award watch list can be directed to MFC Executive Director Mark Wolpert mwolpert@maxwellfootballclub.org or MFC Director of College Awards Rich Cirminiello rcirminiello@maxwellfootballclub.org.

