

Press Release

October 29, 2018 Philadelphia, PA

The 2018 Maxwell and Chuck Bednarik Award Semifinalists Announced

Maxwell Football Club President, Mark Dianno, announced the 2018 semifinalists for the 82nd Maxwell Award for the Collegiate Player of the Year and the 24th Chuck Bednarik Award for the Outstanding Defensive Player of the Year. The respective lists include a field of 20 candidates for the Maxwell and Bednarik Awards as selected by the Maxwell Football Club National Selection Committee. The Maxwell Football Club has once again teamed with Pro Football Focus (PFF) and Phil Steele Publications as selection committee partners. PFF provides detailed statistical and performance based assessments to selection committee staff, and several senior PFF analysts have been added to our committee and have participated in the selection process. Phil Steele's Football Guide is generally recognized as the most complete football reference in the country.

A strong field of Maxwell Award semifinalists includes a representative from every Power Five conference as well as four student-athletes from Group of Five schools. Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor and UCF quarterback McKenzie Milton are returners from last year's semifinalist list.

On the defensive side of the ball, the field of contenders is comprised of fresh faces, most of whom are making their debuts as Bednarik Award semifinalists. Houston's Ed Oliver and Mississippi State's Jeffery Simmons are the lone holdovers from last year's Bednarik semifinalist list. Six different conferences are represented, led by nine student-athletes from the SEC and four from the ACC.

Last season, the Maxwell Award was presented to Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield and the Bednarik Award went to Alabama defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick. Mayfield was the first pick in the 2018 NFL draft and is currently with the Cleveland Browns, while Fitzpatrick, also a top ten draft choice, is a starter in the Miami Dolphins secondary.

2018 Maxwell Award Semifinalists:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Tagovailoa	Tua	QB	Alabama
Dillon	AJ	RB	Boston College
Etienne	Travis	RB	Clemson
Shenault	Laviska	WR	Colorado
McMaryion	Marcus	QB	Fresno State
King	D'Eriq	QB	Houston
Snell	Benny	RB	Kentucky
Henderson	Darrell	RB	Memphis
Higdon	Karan	RB	Michigan
Book	Ian	QB	Notre Dame
Haskins	Dwayne	QB	Ohio State
Murray	Kyler	QB	Oklahoma
Herbert	Justin	QB	Oregon
McSorley	Trace	QB	Penn State
Moore	Rondale	WR	Purdue
Milton	McKenzie	QB	UCF
Moss	Zack	RB	Utah
Minschew	Gardner	QB	Washington State
Grier	Will	QB	West Virginia
Taylor	Jonathan	RB	Wisconsin



2018 Chuck Bednarik Award Semifinalists:

Last Name	First Name	Position	School
Williams	Quinnen	DT	Alabama
Thompson	Deionte	S	Alabama
Allen	Zach	DE	Boston College
Ferrell	Clelin	DE	Clemson
Wilkins	Christian	DT	Clemson
Polite	Jachai	DE	Florida
Burns	Brian	DE	Florida State
Baker	Deandre	CB	Georgia
Oliver	Ed	DT	Houston
Allen	Josh	LB	Kentucky
Ferguson	Jaylon	DE	Louisiana Tech
Delpit	Grant	S	LSU
White	Devin	LB	LSU
Winovich	Chase	DE	Michigan
Sweat	Montez	LB	Mississippi State
Simmons	Jeffery	NG	Mississippi State
Tillery	Jerry	NG	Notre Dame
Jones	Dre'Mont	DT	Ohio State
Murphy	Byron	CB	Washington
Burr-Kirven	Ben	LB	Washington

Semifinalist voting for both of the collegiate awards presented by the Maxwell Football Club will begin on Wednesday Oct. 31 and will close on Nov. 18. Three finalists for each award will be announced on Nov. 19 and a second round of voting will take place at that time. Eligible voters include Maxwell Football Club members, NCAA head football coaches, sports information directors and selected national media. All semifinalists are listed in alphabetical order by school with the player's school, position and class designated.

The winners of the 82nd Maxwell Award and the 24th Chuck Bednarik Award will be announced as part of the ESPN Home Depot College Football Awards Show presented by Gildan which will be broadcast live on ESPN on Dec. 6, 2018. The formal presentation of these awards will be made at the Maxwell Football Club's Awards Dinner on Friday, March 8, 2019 at the Tropicana Casino & Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Questions regarding the Maxwell and Bednarik semifinalist lists can be directed to:

Mr. Mark Wolpert (MFC Executive Director) at mwolpert@maxwellfootballclub.org,
or to

Mr. Richard Cirminiello (Director of Collegiate Awards) at rcirminiello@maxwellfootballclub.org.

About

Pro Football Focus (PFF) is the global leader in American football performance data and insights. We help teams win football games. 24 of 32 NFL teams and many College football programs take advantage of PFF data, insights and analysis for opponent scouting and game planning to free agency evaluation and draft preparation. We help media networks enhance their objective coverage of the game through the interpretation of player performance data and through the development of storylines that drive viewership. We help fans win the argument, the league, the bet. To provide this winning edge for team, media and fans, PFF expert analysts spend over 50 hours per game generating 140+ data points on every single play. This level of scrutiny and detail is unparalleled and generates in-depth player grading (patent pending), unique insights and predictions that can't be found anywhere else. Every Game. Every Player. Every Play. PFF is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio USA.

For more information about PFF, please visit: www.profootballfocus.com.

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 750 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit www.NCFAA.org to learn more about our story.