

MAXWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

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Press Release

November 19, 2018 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

2018 Maxwell and Bednarik Award Finalists Announced

Maxwell Football Club President, Mark Dianno, announced the 2018 finalists 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 three candidates for each of these awards as determined by the semifinalist voting process which ended Nov. 18.

All finalists are listed in alphabetical order by player's school with position and class designated.

2018 Maxwell Award Finalists

Tua Tagovailoa	Alabama	Quarterback	Sophomore
Kyler Murray	Oklahoma	Quarterback	Junior
Will Grier	West Virginia	Quarterback	Senior

2018 Chuck Bednarik Award Finalists

Quinnen Williams	Alabama	Defensive Line	Sophomore
Christian Wilkins	Clemson	Defensive Line	Senior
Josh Allen	Kentucky	Linebacker	Senior

Tagovailoa has led the No. 1 ranked Crimson Tide to an 11-0 (7-0 SEC) record and an SEC West division championship this fall. He has authored one of the most prolific seasons by a quarterback in recent history throwing for 2,865 yards and 31 touchdowns while only throwing two interceptions. He added four rushing touchdowns and has a quarterback rating of 212.22. He will lead the Tide against Auburn in the Iron Bowl on Saturday

Murray has completed 70 percent of his passes, going 196-of-279 for 3,310 yards with 34 touchdowns and six interceptions. He's also rushed for 739 yards and 10 touchdowns while leading the Sooners to a 10-1 record and a No. 6 national ranking. He is arguably the most dangerous dual-threat quarterback in college football this season.

Grier has led the Mountaineers to an 8-2 (6-2 Big XII) record and a No. 12 national ranking. He has passed for 3,325 yards and 33 touchdowns and also scored twice on the ground. He will finish his regular season this Friday when Oklahoma visits Morgantown for a Big 12 Conference clash.

Williams has been one of the most dominant defensive linemen in the country this season. He has six sacks for 35 yards in losses, 55 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, nine quarterback hurries and a pass breakup. He regularly forces offenses to account for him with two or three blockers and generally wreaks havoc in the middle of the line.



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Allen cemented his legacy as one of the all-time great linebackers at Kentucky when he broke the school's sack record last Saturday. The 6-5 senior has notched 80 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss and 13 sacks for minus 84 yards. He also has five forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and five quarterback hurries.

Wilkins has been a fixture on Clemson's defensive line for the past three seasons and is a player who offenses have to account for on every snap. Wilkins has registered 40 tackles (10.5 for loss), 10 quarterback pressures, three sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. He spearheads a Clemson defense that ranks among the national leaders in almost every major statistical category.

Last season, the Maxwell Award went to Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield and the Chuck Bednarik Award was presented to Alabama defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick. Mayfield was the overall No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft and is now the starting quarterback for the Cleveland Browns. Fitzpatrick was also a 1st round pick and is a starter in the secondary for the Miami Dolphins.

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 on December 6, 2018. The formal presentation of these awards will be made at the Maxwell Football Club's Awards Gala which will be held at the Tropicana Casino Resort in Atlantic City, NJ on Friday March 8, 2019.

Voting for both of the collegiate awards presented by the Maxwell Football Club will begin on Wednesday, November 21st and close on Sunday December 2nd. Eligible voters include Maxwell Football Club members, NCAA Head Football Coaches, Sports Information Directors and selected national media.

All questions or concerning these Finalist or the awards presented by the Maxwell Football Club can be directed to Mr. Mark Wolpert (Maxwell Football Club Executive Director) mwolpert@maxwellfootballclub.org, or to Mr. Richard Cirminiello rcirminiello@maxwellfootballclub.org (Director of Collegiate Awards).

The Maxwell and Chuck Bednarik Awards are members of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA) which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. The 24 awards boast over 750 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit www.NCFAA.org to learn more about our story.

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