

NEWS RELEASE

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NFF's 2007 Draddy Trophy Semifinalists Announced ***153 student-athletes vie for college football's most prestigious academic honor***

DALLAS, October 11, 2007 – Selected as the best and the brightest from the college gridiron, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) today announced the 153 semifinalists for the 2007 Draddy Trophy, presented by HealthSouth, and the candidates for the NFF 2007 National Scholar-Athlete Awards.

One of college football's most sought after and competitive awards, the Draddy Trophy recognizes an individual as the absolute best in the country for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership.

“The NFF is extremely proud of this year's group of semifinalists,” said NFF President & CEO Steven J. Hatchell. “Their substantial commitment to academic excellence, athletic prowess and community service is commendable, and it is our responsibility to honor them for their dedication on and off the playing field. These players are the greatest illustration of how we hope to build leaders through football.”

Nominated by their schools, which are limited to one nominee each, semifinalists must be a senior or graduate student in their final year of eligibility, have a GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, have outstanding football ability as a first team player, and have demonstrated strong leadership and citizenship. Established to honor former NFF Chairman Vincent dePaul Draddy, a Manhattan College quarterback who developed the Izod and Lacoste brands, the award comes with a 24-inch, 25-pound bronze trophy and a \$25,000 post-graduate scholarship.

This year's semifinalists maintain a 3.58 average GPA in diverse majors such as physics and ocean engineering. Sixty-six players have earned all-conference recognition on the field and 106 have served as captains. The offensive line produced the most nominees with 31 candidates. Receivers and linebackers followed with 26 nominees each. Offense outscored the defense with 80 to 53 hopefuls. Twenty special teams aspirants completed the contingent. Nominees hail from all NCAA divisions and the NAIA, including a record 67 contenders from the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A).

The NFF Awards Committee will select and announce up to 15 finalists on Oct. 25. Each finalist will be recognized as part of the 2007 National Scholar-Athlete Class, receiving an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship. The Draddy winner, who will receive a \$25,000 postgraduate scholarship, will be announced at the NFF's Annual Awards Dinner on December 4 at the prestigious Waldorf=Astoria in New York City. A total distribution of more than \$300,000 in scholarships will be awarded that evening.

Launched in 1959, the NFF scholar-athlete program became the first initiative in history to credit a player for both academic and athletic accomplishments. The Draddy, first awarded in 1990, adds to the program's mystique. Past Draddy winners, including two Rhodes Scholars, a Rhodes Scholar finalist, a Heisman winner and a 3.7 average GPA, are: Chris Howard (Air Force, 1990); John B. Culpepper (Florida, 1991); Jim Hansen (Colorado, 1992); Thomas Burns (Virginia, 1993); Robert Zatechka (Nebraska, 1994); Bobby Hoying (Ohio State, 1995); Danny Wuerffel (Florida, 1996); Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997); Matt Stinchcomb (Georgia, 1998); Chad Pennington (Marshall, 1999); Kyle Vanden Bosch (Nebraska, 2000); Joaquin Gonzalez (Miami, 2001); Brandon Roberts (Washington University-Mo., 2002); Craig Krenzel (Ohio State, 2003); Michael Munoz (Tennessee, 2004); Rudy Niswanger (Louisiana State, 2005); and Brian Leonard (Rutgers, 2006).

HealthSouth is one of the nation's largest providers of outpatient surgery, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitative healthcare services, operating facilities nationwide. HealthSouth can be found on the Web at www.healthsouth.com.

With 120 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, a non-profit educational organization, runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. Find more at www.footballfoundation.org.

2007 National Scholar-Athlete Nominees and Draddy Semifinalists

School	Nominee	School	Nominee	School	Nominee
<u>FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION</u>		<u>FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION</u>		<u>DIVISION III</u>	
Arizona	Spencer Larsen	Alcorn State	Antonio Cooper, Jr.	Allegheny (Pa.)	Mateo Villa
Arizona State	Michael Marquardt	Austin Peay State	James Williams, Jr.	Augustana (Ill.)	Joel Campbell
Arkansas	Farod Jackson	Brown	Steven Morgan	Bridgewater (Va.)	Jefferson Highfill, Jr.
Arkansas State	Matthew Reibe	Bucknell	Nicholas Mozal	Case Western Reserve (Ohio)	Thomas Brew
Army	Connor Wicklund	Charleston Southern	Nick Ellis	Centre (Ky.)	Christopher Riney
Auburn	Cole Bennett	Coastal Carolina	Elliott McKinnon, Jr.	Emory & Henry (Va.)	Matthew Assenat
Boise State	Nick Schlekeway	Columbia	Justin Smith	Gettysburg (Pa.)	Kyle Luciano
Boston College	Nicholas Larkin	Dayton	Brandon Cramer	Greensboro (N.C.)	Christopher Palme
Bowing Green State	Kory Lichtensteiger	Delaware	Michael Byrne	Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.)	Jared Sieling
Brigham Young	Matthew Allen	Delaware State	Josh Brite	Illinois College	Jake Weller
Buffalo	Jameson Richard	Eastern Illinois	Jordan Campanella	Lewis & Clark (Ore.)	Mike Wennerlind
Central Florida	Keith Shologan	Eastern Kentucky	Justin Curry	Mount Union (Ohio)	Frederick Safran
Central Michigan	Thomas Keith	Eastern Washington	Thomas McAndrews	Saint John's (Minn.)	John Cloeter
Cincinnati	Glenn Bujnoch	Elon	Charles Porterfield	Shenandoah (Va.)	Chris Dooley
Colorado	Kevin Eberhart	Georgetown	Kyle VanFleet	St. Olaf (Minn.)	Matthew Penz
Colorado State	Jesse Nading	Hampton	Marcus Dixon	Thiel (Pa.)	Michael Stimac
Duke	Patrick Bailey	Harvard	Noah Van Niel	Trinity (Conn.)	Benjamin Willig
Eastern Michigan	Kenneth Bohnet	Idaho State	Sterling Mennear	Wabash (Ind.)	Brian Hiltz
Florida Atlantic	Zachary Wichner	Iona	Christopher Lofrese	Wartburg (Iowa)	Kyle Duchman
Fresno State	Clint Stitser	Maine	Shawn Demaray	Washington Univ. in STL (Mo.)	Kevin Brooks
Georgia Tech	Kevin Tuminello	Montana	Torrey Thomas	Wesleyan (Conn.)	Zachary Librizzi
Illinois	J Leman	Norfolk State	Andre Twine	Western New England (Mass.)	Kevin Micolcy
Indiana	Kevin Trulock	North Carolina A&T	Ortiz Green III	Widener (Pa.)	Jamie Schild
Iowa	Mike Klinkenborg	Northeastern	Anthony Orio	Wisconsin-Eau Claire	Anthony Hull
Iowa State	Bryce Braaksma	Northern Colorado	Aaron Henderson		
Kent State	Matthew Muller	Northern Iowa	Chad Rinehart		
Kentucky	Jacob Tamme	Princeton	Brendan Circle		
Louisiana-Lafayette	Lamar Morgan	Sacramento State	Ryan Coogler		
Louisville	Daniel Barlowe	Sacred Heart	Jason Richardson	<u>NAIA</u>	
Memphis	Jake Kasser	Samford	Jefferson Adcock	Bethel (Tenn.)	Knox Baggett
Middle Tennessee State	Clinton Corder	South Dakota State	Parker Douglass	Carroll (Mont.)	Nick Milodragovich
Minnesota	Anthony Brinkhaus	Southeast Missouri State	Adam Casper	Eastern Oregon	Michael Eby
Mississippi State	Dezmond Sherrod	Southern Illinois	Nick Hill	Jamestown (N.D.)	Nathan Pederson
Missouri	Matthew Crossett	Tennessee Tech	John Jackson	Northwestern (Iowa)	Scott Stahl
Navy	Gregory Veteto	Texas State	Nicholas Clark	Urbana (Ohio)	Kevin Weber
Nebraska	James Phillips II	Towson	John Webb		
New Mexico	Cody Kase	Valparaiso	Justin Wiler		
North Carolina	Joseph Dailey	Wofford	Kevin Adleman		
North Texas	Raifu Durodoye, Jr.	Yale	Alan Kimball		
Notre Dame	John Carlson	Youngstown State	Thomas Zetts		
Ohio	Chidozie Nwokocho				
Oregon	Dennis Dixon				
Purdue	Jared Armstrong				
Rice	Robert Heos				
Rutgers	Brandon Renkart				
SMU	Benjamin Poynter				
Southern Mississippi	Jeremy Young				
Syracuse	Ryan Durand				
TCU	Chris Manfredini				
Tennessee	Erik Ainge				
Texas	Dallas Griffin				
Texas A&M	Cody Wallace				
Texas Tech	Alex Trilica				
Toledo	Brett Kern				
Troy	Gregory Whibbs, Jr.				
Tulsa	Paul Smith				
UCLA	Christopher Joseph				
Utah	Stephen Tate				
Vanderbilt	Hamilton Holliday				
Virginia	Michael Santi, Jr.				
Wake Forest	Zachary Selmon				
Washington	Cody Ellis				
Washington State	Alex Brink				
West Virginia	Bobby Hathaway				
Western Kentucky	Marion Rumph				
Western Michigan	Anthony Gebhart				
Wisconsin	Luke Swan				



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