

NEWS RELEASE

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NFF ANNOUNCES 2008 DRADDY TROPHY SEMIFINALISTS

164 student-athletes, including Missouri's Chase Daniel, Texas Tech's Graham Harrell, and Ohio State's Brian Robiskie, vie for college football's most prestigious academic honor

DALLAS, October 1, 2008 – Selected as the best and brightest from the college gridiron, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced today the 164 semifinalists for the 2008 Draddy Trophy, presented by HealthSouth, and the candidates for the 2008 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards.

“The Draddy Trophy is one of college football’s most sought after and competitive awards,” said **NFF Chairman Archie Manning** whose sons Peyton (Draddy winner) and Eli were named NFF National Scholar-Athletes in 1997 and 2003, respectively. “It recognizes an individual as the absolute best in the country for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership, and we’re incredibly proud to select the next winner from this remarkable group of semifinalists.”

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 or significant contributor, 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 25-pound bronze trophy and a \$25,000 post-graduate scholarship.

“The Draddy semifinalists represent everything good about college football,” said **NFF President & CEO Steven J. Hatchell**. “They are another fine example of how football builds leaders, and it is the NFF’s duty to promote their accomplishments while encouraging future generations of gridiron standouts to aim high on and off the football field.”

The NFF Awards Committee will select and announce up to 15 finalists on Oct. 29. Each finalist will be recognized as part of the 2008 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 9 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, having previously honored two Rhodes Scholars, a Rhodes Scholar finalist and a Heisman winner. The University of Texas’s **Dallas Griffin** was named the 2007 Draddy recipient.

Notable NFF National Scholar-Athlete alumni include NFL standout **Derrick Brooks** (Florida State); actor **Mark Harmon** (UCLA); NASA astronaut **Leland Melvin** (Richmond); former Dateline NBC anchor **Stone Phillips** (Yale); chairman of Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters Tournament, **Billy Payne** (Georgia); famed NFL quarterback **Steve Young** (BYU); and Heisman Trophy winners **Terry Baker** (Oregon State), **Gary Beban** (UCLA); **Doug Flutie** (Boston College) and **Danny Wuerffel** (Florida).

2008 DRADDY SEMIFINALIST GROUP NOTES

- **3.56** Average GPA
- **67** All-Conference Picks
- **102** Team Captains
- **10** 2007 First Team Academic All-America Selections
- **Two** 2007 First Team All-America Selections
- **16** of the top 25 teams in this week's AP Poll represented
- **57** Nominees from the Football Bowl Subdivision
- **43** Nominees from the Football Championship Subdivision
- **15** Nominees from the Division II
- **37** Nominees from the Division III
- **12** Nominees from the NAIA
- **82** Offensive Players
- **63** Defensive Players
- **19** Special Teams Players

HealthSouth is the nation's largest provider of inpatient rehabilitation services. Operating in 26 states across the country and in Puerto Rico, HealthSouth serves more than 250,000 patients annually through its network of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation satellites, and home health agencies. HealthSouth strives to be the health care company of choice for its patients, employees, physicians and shareholders and can be found on the Web at www.healthsouth.com.

Founded in 1947 with leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, 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. With 121 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, NFF programs include the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., the NFF Hampshire Honor Society, Play It Smart, the NFF-FWAA Football Forum, the NFF Gridiron Clubs of New York City, Dallas and Los Angeles, and scholarships of over \$1 million for college and high school scholar-athletes. The NFF awards the MacArthur Trophy, the Draddy Trophy, presented by HealthSouth, and releases the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Standings. Learn more at www.footballfoundation.org.

– See next page for a complete list of nominees –

THE NFF'S 2008 DRADDY SEMIFINALISTS

FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION

Air Force - Travis Dekker
Arizona State - Anthony Reyes
Arkansas - Jeremy Davis
Army - Lowell Garthwaite
BYU - Kellen Fowler
California - Alex Mack
Central Michigan - Brian Brunner
Colorado State - Jeff Horinek
Connecticut - Tyler Lorenzen
Florida - James Smith
Fresno State - Tom Brandstater
Georgia - Brian Mimbs
Georgia Tech - Darryl Richard
Houston - Thomas Ebner
Illinois - Ryan McDonald
Indiana - Austin Starr
Iowa - Matt Kroul
Kansas - Mike Rivera
Kentucky - Tim Masthay
Louisiana Tech - Quin Harris
Louisiana-Lafayette - Michael Desormeaux
Maryland - Daniel Gronkowski
Memphis - Brandon Pearce
Miami (Fla.) - Michael Byrne
Mississippi State - Anthony Strauder
Missouri - Chase Daniel
Nebraska - Todd Peterson
Nevada - Andy McIntosh
New Mexico - Zach Arnett
Northern Illinois - Jon Brost
Northwestern - Eric Peterman
Ohio State - Brian Robiskie
Ohio University - Michael Brown
Oklahoma State - Seb Clements
Oregon - Nick Reed
Oregon State - Andrew Levitre
Penn State - Gerald Cadogan
Pittsburgh - Conor Lee
Purdue - Ryan Baker
Rice - David Berken
Rutgers - Jason McCourty
South Carolina - Ryan Succop
Southern California - Jeff Byers
Syracuse - Ryan Durand
Texas - Chris Ogbonnaya
Texas A&M - Stephen McGee
TCU - Shae Reagan
Texas Tech - Graham Harrell
Troy - Will Chambliss
Tulsa - David Johnson
UCF - Sha'reff Rashad
UCLA - Logan Paulsen
Utah - Louie Sakoda
Washington State - Vaughn Lesuma
West Virginia - Reed Williams
Western Michigan - Dustin Duclo
Wisconsin - Chris Pressley

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION

Albany - Daniel Bocanegra
Appalachian State - Pierre Banks
Arkansas-Pine Bluff - John Keith
Austin Peay State - P.R. Morris
Bethune-Cookman - Ryan Griffin
Brown - Michael Dougherty
Bryant - Brian Donnelly
Bucknell - Kevin Mullen
Butler - Mike Bennett
Columbia - Phillip Mitchell
Dartmouth - Andrew Dete
Dayton - Bart Bergfeld
Eastern Illinois - Tyler Wilke
Elon - Tim Applegate
Hampton - Kevin Teel
Harvard - Andrew Berry
Hofstra - Nicholas Altomare
Holy Cross - Matt Partain
Illinois State - Kedric Meredith
Iona - Timmethy Mastriano
Lehigh - Brenden Van Ackeren
Maine - Ryan Canary
Marist - Jake Dembow
McNeese State - Brant Linde
Montana - Cole Bergquist
Morehead State - Nick Feldman
North Carolina A&T State - Mike Christen
North Dakota State - Kole Heckendorf
Northeastern - Anthony Orio
Northern Arizona - Robbie Dehaze
Northwestern State - Dudley Guice
Princeton - Ryan Coyle
Samford - Mitchell Waters
San Diego - Patrick O'Neill
South Carolina State - Nygel Pearson
South Dakota State - Ryan Berry
Stephen F. Austin - Cory Long
Towson - Mark Bencivengo
Valparaiso - Ryan Koepke
VMI - Jacob Rochester
Wofford - Ben Quick
Yale - Casey Gerald
Youngstown State - Brad Samsa

DIVISION II

Central Missouri - Adrian Singletary
Chadron State (Neb.) - Joe McLain
Delta State (Miss.) - Spencer Strickland
Eastern New Mexico - Michael Carrasco
Kentucky State - Ralph Warner
Minnesota State-Moorhead - Bryce Leggins
Minnesota-Duluth - Theodore Schlafke
North Alabama - Derrick Chatman
Northwest Missouri State - Joel Osborn
Ouachita Baptist (Ark.) - Zach Wright
Southwest Baptist (Mo.) - Clint Carroz
St. Cloud State (Minn.) - Ryan Kees
Virginia State - Devon Wiggins
Wayne State (Mich.) - Andrew Bates
West Texas A&M - Charly Martin

DIVISION III

Amhert (Mass.) - Gregory Smith
Blackburn (Ill.) - Andrew Ott
Bluffton (Ohio) - Joel Sienicki
Carnegie Mellon (Pa.) - Brian Freeman
Carroll (Wisc.) - Maclane Philips
Centre (Ky.) - Neil Murphy
Chicago (Ill.) - James McAnelly
Colorado College - Billy Blaustein
Concordia (Minn.) - Levi DeVries
DePauw (Ind.) - Michael McNelis
Earlham (Ind.) - Drew Hosier
Franklin & Marshall (Pa.) - Paul Sousa
Gettysburg (Pa.) - Anthony Pastore
Middlebury (Vt.) - Andrew Matson
Millsaps (Miss.) - Nick Namias
MIT - James Oleinik
Moravian (Pa.) - Brian Reckenbeil
Mount Union (Ohio) - Greg Micheli
Pacific Lutheran (Wash.) - Neal Chalmers
Redlands (Calif.) - Zach Schafer
Rensselaer Poly (N.Y.) - Jimmy Roberson
Rochester (N.Y.) - Matthew Stack
Salisbury (Md.) - Matt Barnes
St. John Fisher (N.Y.) - Daniel Polloch
St. John's (Minn.) - Jeff Schnobrich
Thomas More (Kent.) - Tyler Grant
Trine (Ind.) - Joe Curtis
Trinity (Conn.) - Timothy Berry
Univ. of the South (Tenn.) - Tyler Brantley
Wabash (Ind.) - Brock Graham
Wartburg (Iowa) - Marcus Hemesath
Wash. In St. Louis (Mo.) - Buck Smith
Wisconsin-Eau Claire - Paul Bielmeier
Wisconsin-La Crosse - Chris Johnson
Wisconsin-Oshkosh - Dieter Juedes
Wisconsin-Whitewater - Michael Sherman
Wittenberg (Ohio) - Zach Brumfield

NAIA

Bethel (Kan.) - Omar Hasan
Bethel (Tenn.) - Justin Dubruiel
Carroll (Mont.) - Zach Richardson
Cumberlands (Ky.) - Josh Frosch
Dakota State (S.D.) - Scott Sonne
McKendree (Ill.) - Ryan Klier
Morningside (Iowa) - Ryan Oetken
Northwestern (Iowa) - Kyle Oschsner
Ohio Dominican - James Dingus
Ottawa (Kan.) - Chris McClellan
Taylor (Ind.) - Jeremy Prudhomme
Union (Ky.) - Kyle Callahan