

# 24 Finalists Announced for The Home Depot College Football Awards on Thursday, Dec. 11

## **21 Programs Represented; Melvin Gordon, Marcus Mariota and Dak Prescott Receive Multiple Nominations**

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (Nov. 25, 2014) —*The Home Depot College Football Awards*, now in its 24th year, will once again air on ESPN, Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. ET, highlighting the achievements of college football student-athletes in 2014. Twenty-four players were selected as finalists for the nine National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA) awards given annually during the show. The nominees were announced during ***The Home Depot College Football Awards Nomination Special*** at 6 p.m. ET today on ESPNU.

Alabama and Oregon lead schools in nominations having three and two players nominated, respectively. Melvin Gordon (Wisconsin), Marcus Mariota (Oregon) and Dak Prescott (Mississippi State) are each finalists for two awards.

### **The Home Depot College Football Awards Finalists**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Finalists</b>
<b>Chuck Bednarik Award</b> College Defensive Player of the Year	<b>Teddy Lehman</b> Oklahoma 2003 Winner	Vic Beasley, Clemson (R) Joey Bosa, Ohio State (S) Scooby Wright III, Arizona
<b>Biletnikoff Award</b> Nation's Outstanding College Receiver	<b>Desmond Howard</b> Michigan College Football Hall of Fame	Amari Cooper, Alabama Rashard Higgins, Colorado Kevin White, West Virginia
<b>Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award</b> Nation's Outstanding Placekicker	<b>Art Carmody</b> Louisville 2006 Winner	Roberto Aguayo, Florida Brad Craddock, Maryland Josh Lambert, West Virginia
<b>Ray Guy Award</b> College Punter of the Year	<b>Ray Guy</b> Southern Miss College Football Hall of Fame	Tom Hackett, Utah (Jr.) Austin Rehkow, Idaho (S) JK Scott, Alabama (Fr.)

<p><b>Maxwell Award</b></p> <p>College Player of the Year</p>	<p><b>Lou Holtz</b></p> <p>ESPN College Football Analyst</p> <p>College Football Hall of Fame</p>	<p>Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin</p> <p>Marcus Mariota, Oregon</p> <p>Dak Prescott, Mississippi</p>
<p><b>Davey O’Brien National Quarterback Award</b></p> <p>Nation’s Best Quarterback</p>	<p><b>Gino Torretta</b></p> <p>Miami</p> <p>College Football Hall of Fame &amp; 1992 winner</p>	<p>Trevone Boykin, TCU (Jr.)</p> <p>Marcus Mariota, Oregon</p> <p>Dak Prescott, Mississippi</p>
<p><b>Outland Trophy</b></p> <p>Nation’s Most Outstanding Interior Lineman</p>	<p><b>Mark May</b></p> <p>Pittsburgh</p> <p>College Football Hall of Fame &amp; 1980 winner</p>	<p>Malcom Brown, Texas (Jr.)</p> <p>Reese Dismukes, Auburn</p> <p>Brandon Scherff, Iowa (Sr.)</p>
<p><b>Jim Thorpe Award</b></p> <p>Nation’s Best Defensive Back</p>	<p><b>Greg Myers</b></p> <p>Colorado State</p> <p>College Football Hall of Fame &amp; 1995 winner</p>	<p>Landon Collins, Alabama</p> <p>Ifo Ekpere-Olomu, Oregon</p> <p>Gerod Holliman, Louisville</p>
<p><b>Doak Walker Award</b></p> <p>Nation’s Premier Running Back</p>	<p><b>Floyd Little</b></p> <p>Syracuse</p> <p>College Football Hall of Fame</p>	<p>Ameer Abdullah, Nebraska</p> <p>Tevin Coleman, Indiana</p> <p>Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin</p>
<p><b>NCFAA Contributions to College Football Award</b></p>	<p><b>Mike Singletary</b></p> <p>Baylor</p> <p>College Football Hall of Fame</p>	<p>Winner: Grant Teaff</p>
<p><b>The Home Depot Coach of the Year</b></p> <p>Nation’s Most Outstanding Head Coach</p>	<p><b>David Pollack</b></p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>2004 Bednarik winner &amp; ESPN College Football Analyst</p>	<p>TBA on Wednesday, Dec. 10</p>
<p><b>Walter Camp All-America Team</b></p>	<p><b>Art Still</b></p> <p>Kentucky</p>	<p>TBA on Thursday, Dec. 11</p>

\*2013 award winner

Additionally, the John Mackey Award (Outstanding Tight End), the Rimington Award (Outstanding Center) and the

William V. Campbell Trophy (Academic Success) will be recognized during ***The Red Carpet Special at The Home Depot College Football Awards***. Nick O'Leary (Florida State, Sr.), Clive Walford (Miami, Sr.) and Maxx Williams (Minnesota, RS So.) are finalists for the John Mackey Award and the 17 finalist for the Campbell Trophy were announced on Oct. 30. The Rimington finalists will be announced on Monday, Dec. 8.

The Home Depot Coach of the Year Award, to be announced on Wednesday, Dec. 10, and the Disney Spirit Award will also be featured in the December show. **Disney Sports previously announced that Oklahoma Sooners coach Bob Stoops and junior wide receiver Sterling Shepard will receive this year's Disney Sports Spirit Award** – an honor given annually by Disney Sports to college football's most inspirational figure.

### **2014 The Home Depot College Football Awards Highlights**

The 24th annual awards show – hosted by ESPN's Rece Davis, and joined by Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit, Desmond Howard, Tom Rinaldi and Samantha Ponder – will originate from the Atlantic Dance Hall at Disney's BoardWalk at the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

**College Football Live** will air from the BoardWalk at 2:30 p.m. on ESPN. Host Chris Cotter will be joined by college football analysts' Danny Kanell, David Pollack and Joey Galloway and ***The Red Carpet Special at The Home Depot College Football Awards*** – hosted by Ponder, Kanell, and Rinaldi – will air at 6p.m. on ESPN.

In addition to the nine awards listed above, ***The Home Depot College Football Awards*** will feature the live presentation of the NCAA (National College Football Awards Association) Contribution to College Football Award; The Home Depot Coach of the Year Award; The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team; the Disney Spirit Award; the student-athletes selected to the Walter Camp All-America Team; and Play of the Year as voted on live by viewers. It will air on ESPN Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.

New for 2014, ***Championship Drive: CFB Playoff Preview*** will follow the awards show at 9 p.m. on ESPN. Host Cotter will be joined by Kanell, Pollack and Galloway.

Viewers can also follow and engage on Twitter by following @ESPNCFB and tagging their tweets using **#CFBAwards** for news, opinion and behind-the-scenes extras during and leading up to this year's award show.

**MEDIA NOTE:** Media interested in attending *The Home Depot College Football Awards* can apply for credentials by emailing Liz McCollum at [elizabethm@bzapr.com](mailto:elizabethm@bzapr.com).

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