



Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame  
4040 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Friday, July 14, 2017  
9:00 a.m. CENTRAL

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## PAYCOM JIM THORPE AWARD NAMES 2017 PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Oklahoma City—The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** 2017 watch list was announced today and includes 45 of the nation's best defensive backs, representing ten conferences.

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** is one of the most coveted awards in college football. It is awarded to the best defensive back in college football based on performance on the field, athletic ability and character. The award was established in 1986 and is named after history's greatest all-around athlete, Jim Thorpe. Thorpe excelled not only as a running back, passer, and kicker on the offensive side of the ball; but also stood out as a defensive back. In addition to his legendary performance on the football field, Thorpe played professional baseball and won Olympic gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon.

**Paycom Software, Inc.** ("Paycom") (NYSE:PAYC), a leading provider of comprehensive, cloud-based human capital management software, and the Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (OSHOF) jointly announced in May of 2017 an exclusive sponsorship of the Jim Thorpe Award. As a result, the accolade will be named the "Paycom Jim Thorpe Award."

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** watch list is chosen by a screening committee who compiles a list of 30-50 players. The list is not final, and players who have outstanding seasons are added as the season progresses. The Thorpe Award Winner is selected from three finalists and will be announced at The Home Depot College Football Awards on Thursday, December 7, 2017, on ESPN.

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** Banquet will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, in Oklahoma.

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA) which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 23 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit [www.NCFAA.org](http://www.NCFAA.org) to learn more about our story.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a two-week period this month. Sixteen of the association's 23 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the complete 2017 preseason watch list calendar:

**Mon, July 10:** Bednarik Award / Maxwell Award  
**Tues, July 11:** Mackey Award / Rimington Trophy  
**Wed, July 12:** Lou Groza Award / Ray Guy Award  
**Thurs, July 13:** Bronko Nagurski Trophy / Outland Trophy  
**Fri, July 14:** Jim Thorpe Award

**Mon, July 17:** Butkus Award / Hornung Award  
**Tues, July 18:** Biletnikoff Award / Wuerffel Trophy  
**Wed, July 19:** Davey O'Brien Award  
**Thurs, July 20:** Doak Walker Award  
**Fri, July 21:** Walter Camp Award

## 2017 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Preseason Watch List

<b>Brandon Addison</b> Old Dominion- Sr.	<b>Minkah Fitzpatrick</b> Alabama - Jr.	<b>Parry Nickerson</b> Tulane - Sr.
<b>Jaire Alexander</b> Louisville - Jr.	<b>Tre Flowers</b> Oklahoma State - Sr.	<b>Nick Orr</b> TCU - Sr.
<b>Marcus Allen</b> Penn State - Sr.	<b>Chase Hansen</b> Utah - Jr.	<b>Taylor Rapp</b> Washington - So.
<b>Dravon Askew-Henry</b> West Virginia - Jr.	<b>Heath Harding</b> Miami - Sr.	<b>Jeremy Reaves</b> South Alabama - Sr.
<b>Quin Blanding</b> Virginia - Sr.	<b>Ronnie Harrison</b> Alabama - Jr.	<b>D.J. Reed</b> Kansas State - Jr.
<b>Joe Brown</b> WKU - Sr.	<b>Godwin Igwebuike</b> Northwestern - Sr.	<b>Justin Reid</b> Stanford - Jr.
<b>Andre Chachere</b> San Jose State - Sr.	<b>Donte Jackson</b> LSU - Jr.	<b>Dominick Sanders</b> Georgia - Sr.
<b>Sean Chandler</b> Temple - Sr.	<b>Derwin James</b> Florida State - So.	<b>M.J. Stewart</b> North Carolina - Sr.
<b>Justin Clifton</b> Arkansas State - Jr.	<b>Chris Jones</b> Nebraska - Sr.	<b>Greg Stroman</b> Virginia Tech - Sr.
<b>Amari Coleman</b> Central Michigan - Sr.	<b>Shawun Lurry</b> NIU - Sr.	<b>Jaleel Wadood</b> UCLA - Sr.
<b>Kamari Cotton-Moya</b> Iowa State - Sr.	<b>Iman Marshall</b> USC - Jr.	<b>Denzel Ward</b> Ohio State - Jr.
<b>Duke Dawson</b> Florida - Sr.	<b>Kishawn McClain</b> North Texas - Sr.	<b>Armani Watts</b> Texas A&M - Sr.
<b>Clifton Duck</b> Appalachian State - So.	<b>Tarvarus McFadden</b> Florida State - Jr.	<b>Jordan Whitehead</b> Pitt - Jr.
<b>Mike Edwards</b> Kentucky - Jr.	<b>Quenton Meeks</b> Stanford - Jr.	<b>Andrew Wingard</b> Wyoming – Jr.
<b>Rashard Fant</b> Indiana - Sr.	<b>Deatrick Nichols</b> USF - Sr.	<b>Jalen Young</b> FAU – Jr.

By Conference: AAC (3), ACC (7), Big Ten (5), Big 12 (5), C-USA (4), MAC (3), MW (2), Pac-12 (6), SEC (7), Sun Belt (3)