

News Release

From the Awards and Recognition Association

4700 W. Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60025-1485

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2005

ARA ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR INAUGURAL NATIONAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Outstanding Role Models Identified Throughout Division I

GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS - The Awards and Recognition Association today announced ten finalists for the inaugural ARA Sportsmanship Award – a new national award for NCAA Division I College Football.

“We knew we would find outstanding role models throughout college football, and we were not disappointed. Our selection committee will have a difficult time selecting one person to win the first ARA Sportsmanship Award,” said ARA President Charles Miles.

Former Brigham Young University Head Football Coach LaVell Edwards chairs the selection committee. The 2005 ARA Sportsmanship Award recipient will be announced on December XX, 2005.

The finalists for the 2005 ARA Sportsmanship Award are:

James Anderson	Virginia Tech
Antoine Huffman	University of Kentucky
Luke Johnson	University of Southern Mississippi
Matthew Leinart	University of Southern California
Grayling Love	Arizona State University
Ryan Neill	Rutgers University
Ben Obomanu	Auburn University
Devarick Scandrett	Middle Tennessee State University
Scott Smith	University of California, Berkeley
DeAngelo Williams	University of Memphis

“We are particularly pleased that these fine examples of good character and athletic excellence come from different parts of the country and from both Division IA and IAA. Good sportsmanship is demonstrated on and off the field at all levels of amateur and professional athletics, and we expected to see strong candidates from throughout Division I,” Miles said.

2 – ARA Announces Finalists for Inaugural ARA Sportsmanship Award

All NCAA Division I schools were eligible to submit nominations for the ARA Sportsmanship Award. The finalists were selected in a blinded process. The winner will be selected by a blue-ribbon panel of former football coaches, sports and media professionals and representatives from ARA and other complementary organizations.

To qualify for the award, an athlete must be a starting player or significant contributor on his team, be a senior in good academic standing, demonstrate great respect for competitors, school, teammates and coaches, show an ability to accept victory and defeat graciously, convey a high degree of humility and integrity, and demonstrate commitment in the classroom and to the community.

The Awards and Recognition Association is the official sponsor of the ARA Sportsmanship Award. ARA is a membership organization of 4,000 companies dedicated to increasing the professionalism of recognition specialists and advancing the awards and engraving industry.

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Sharon Bond, Media Relations, ARA
Dave Bergeson, Executive Director, ARA

(847) 375-4836
(847) 375-4866