



Contact: Donna Scherner
847-980-8343

For Immediate Release

**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY'S ALEX BRINK NAMED WINNER OF
2007 ARA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

Cougar quarterback rewarded for his leadership on and off the field

Glenview, Ill. (December 20, 2007) – Washington State University quarterback Alex Brink, a native of Eugene, Ore, has been named the recipient of the 2007 ARA Sportsmanship Award, presented annually by the Awards and Recognition Association (ARA). The award will be presented tonight at a ceremony during the Washington State-Citadel basketball game at Key Arena in Seattle.

“There was no shortage of stellar candidates this year across Division 1,” said Ed Hunt, president of the ARA. “We’re encouraged by the volume and caliber of candidates, but Alex Brink was our stand out, he lives and breathes good sportsmanship and we are honored to name him the 2007 recipient of our award.”

“We look for players that truly make a difference in whatever they do and Alex is our guy,” commented LaVell Edwards, former Brigham Young University head football coach. As chair of the ARA selection committee, Edwards will present Alex with the award.

“He’s smart, poised, positive and gracious with his teammates, coaches, the media, fans, teachers and the community he serves. He leads his team with class on campus and in the community,” explained Edwards. “He’s wise beyond his years and someone young kids can and should look up to.”

The ARA Sportsmanship Award is presented to the NCAA Division 1 collegiate football player who most exemplifies sportsmanship on and off the field. Brink, 22, was selected from 10 finalists representing schools across the country. Previous winners are Carolina Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams (2005) and St. Louis Rams running back Brian Leonard (2006).

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.

Brink ended his Cougar career this season as one of the school's all-time greats. He holds WSU career records in passing yards, touchdowns, attempts, completions and total offense. Brink is also one of the most prolific passers in conference history, ranking third and fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference in yards and touchdowns, respectively, and is only the sixth signal-caller in conference history to throw for more than 10,000 yards and toss 70-or-more touchdowns.

This past season he threw for 3,818 yards, the second highest single-season total in school history. He completed 305-of-503 passes for a completion-percentage of .606, the fourth-best in WSU history. The senior also threw 26 touchdown passes, which ranks tied for third on the single-season list. His final game as a Cougar resulted in a come-from-behind, 42-35 victory over rival Washington in the annual Apple Cup as he threw for 399 yards and five touchdowns.

At Washington State, Brink was a member of WSU Honors College and was on the honor roll in each of his previous six semesters. He also was part of the All-Academic Pac 10, CoSida/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VII First Team and was named to the WSU Athletics All-Academic team four times. Alex was also one of 15 recipients of the National Football Foundation (NFF) Scholar-Athlete Award, which entitles him to an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship.

Off campus, Brink consistently carves out time for community service. He participates in on-going community efforts for children and is a four-year member of the WSU reading buddies program and reads to local school-age children.

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

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. The ARA is headquartered in Glenview, Ill. For more information about the award, visit www.arasportsmanshipaward.com

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