NFF Proudly Announces Finalists for 2017 William V. Campbell Trophy®,
Presented by Fidelity Investments®

Thirteen of the nation’s best and brightest players will vie for college football’s premier scholar-athlete award, and each will receive an $18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class.

IRVING, Texas (Nov. 1, 2017) – The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced today the finalists for the 2017 William V. Campbell Trophy®, presented by Fidelity Investments®. The trophy recognizes an individual as the absolute best football scholar-athlete in the nation.

The 13 finalists will each receive an $18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class, presented by Fidelity Investments. The finalists will travel to New York City for the 60th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 5, where their accomplishments will be highlighted in front of one of the most powerful audiences in all of sports. At the event, one member of the class will be declared the winner of the 28th William V. Campbell Trophy® and have his postgraduate scholarship increased to $25,000. The event, which will take place at the New York Hilton Midtown, will be live streamed on ESPN3, starting at 8:30 p.m. ET.

Selected from a nationwide pool of 181 exceptional semifinalists from among all NCAA divisions and the NAIA, the 13 finalists are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLAR-ATHLETE</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sam Benger</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Carnegie Mellon (Pa.)</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braxton Berrios</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Miami (Fla.)</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>Finance &amp; Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Hampton</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>3.97</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Jackson</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micah Kiser</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Lea</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>Jacksonville State</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>Emergency MGMT &amp; Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Lundblade</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Oklahoma State</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Martin</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Slippery Rock (Pa.)</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>Safety Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandon Sullivan</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>Georgia State</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaise Taylor</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Arkansas State</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlon Walls</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Stephen F. Austin</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Engineering Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Weber</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>Nutrition Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Wienke</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>South Dakota State</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>Physical/Teacher Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“We are extremely proud to announce the finalists for this year’s Campbell Trophy®, who make up the National Scholar-Athlete Class,” said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. “These young men have an unrelenting commitment to excellence in all aspects of their lives, and they represent all that is right in college football. They serve as living examples that Football Matters®, and we are excited to honor their hard work and accomplishments with postgraduate scholarships.”

The recipient of the Campbell Trophy® will also be honored at the NFF Board of Directors meeting and at a reception hosted by its official home, the New York Athletic Club, on Wednesday, Dec. 6. He will then fly to Atlanta to be recognized during The Home Depot College Football Awards on ESPN at the College Football Hall of Fame on Dec. 7. Finally, as part of the NFF’s partnership with the College Football Playoff (CFP), the Campbell Trophy® winner will return to Atlanta to be recognized on the field during the CFP National Championship on Jan. 8, 2018.

The trophy is named in honor of the late Bill Campbell, the former chairman of Intuit, a former player and head coach at Columbia University, and the 2004 recipient of the NFF’s Gold Medal. The award comes with a 25-pound bronze trophy and a $7,000 increase in postgraduate funds for a total scholarship of $25,000. A total distribution of $241,000 in scholarships will be awarded Dec. 5, pushing the program’s all-time distributions to more than $11.3 million.

“The NFF Awards Committee did an excellent job in selecting this year’s National Scholar-Athletes,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning, whose sons Peyton (Campbell Trophy® winner) and Eli were NFF National Scholar-Athletes in 1997 and 2003, respectively. “Selected from an impressive group of semifinalists, they should be extremely proud of their accomplishments, as they have undoubtedly distinguished themselves as some of the best student-athletes in the country. Each of these men is also a leader in his respective community, and we know that they have only begun to reach their potential.”

The NFF National Scholar-Athlete program, launched in 1959, became the first initiative in history to award scholar-athletes postgraduate scholarships for their combined athletic, academic and leadership abilities. Including the 2017 recipients, the NFF has honored 841 individuals with National Scholar-Athlete Awards. The honorees have used the financial support to earn more than 150 medical degrees, 100 law degrees, 80 MBAs and 43 PhDs. Continuing their excellence on the field, more than 200 recipients have played in the NFL with an average career of six seasons or double the length of a typical NFL player. Past recipients also include 13 Rhodes Scholars.

The members of this year’s class find themselves among some of the most elite student-athletes in the history of the game, including NFL standout Drew Brees (Purdue); actor Mark Harmon (UCLA); Robert Morris University President Chris Howard (Air Force); NCAA Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Oliver Luck (West Virginia); NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins (Illinois) and Leland Melvin (Richmond); recently retired chairman of Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters Tournament, Billy Payne (Georgia); famed NFL quarterback Steve

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Young (BYU); and 35 College Football Hall of Famers, including 2017 electee Peyton Manning (Tennessee). Click here for a database of all the past NFF National Scholar-Athletes.

In 2011, the NFF and Fidelity launched a multi-year initiative between the two organizations to celebrate the scholar-athlete ideal and a joint commitment to higher education. As part of the initiative, Fidelity became the first presenting sponsor ever in the history of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards program. In 2014, Fidelity expanded its support, becoming the presenting sponsor of The William V. Campbell Trophy®.

Fidelity’s support also includes the NFF Faculty Salutes, which recognize the contributions of the faculty athletics representatives at each of the institutions with an NFF National Scholar-Athlete. As part of the initiative and with full support from the 1A FARs, the NFF presents each of the faculty representatives with a plaque and a $5,000 check from Fidelity Investments, which is used to support the academic support services for student-athletes at each school. Since the program’s inception in 2011, Fidelity has committed $505,000 (including $65,000 this year) and recognized 101 FARs.

**2017 NFF Campbell Trophy® Finalists Highlights**

- 3.76 Average GPA
- 11 Captains
- 9 Academic All-America selections (Benger, Hampton, Jackson, Kiser, Lea, Lundblade, Martin, Walls, Wieneke)
- 12 Academic All-Conference athletes
- 5 All-America picks (Benger, Kiser, Lea, Martin, Wieneke)
- 9 All-Conference selections
- 3 players who have already graduated (Kiser, Lea, Taylor), including one who has already earned a master’s degree (Taylor)
- 6 players on track to graduate this December (Berrios, Hampton, Jackson, Lundblade, Martin, Wieneke)
- 1 player with a perfect 4.0 GPA (Walls)
- 1 player already accepted to medical school (Weber)
- 5 school record holders (Benger, Jackson, Sullivan, Taylor, Wieneke)
- 4 members of ranked teams (Berrios, Lea, Lundblade, Wieneke)
- 7 Offensive Players (Benger, Berrios, Hampton, Jackson, Lea, Lundblade, Wieneke)
- 6 Defensive Players (Kiser, Martin, Sullivan, Taylor, Walls, Weber)

Nominated by their schools, which are limited to one nominee each, candidates 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. The 181 semifinalists for the award were announced on Sept. 27, and the class is selected each year by the NFF Awards Committee, which is comprised of a nationally recognized group of media, College Football Hall of Famers and athletics administrators.
In addition to the presentation of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards and The William V. Campbell Trophy®, the 60th NFF Annual Awards Dinner will include the induction of the 2017 College Football Hall of Fame Class and the presentation of several major awards.

INDIVIDUAL BIO
(All stats as of Nov. 1, 2017)

SAM BEMBER, RB – CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY (Pa.)
Business Administration – 3.67 GPA
Head Coach: Rich Lackner | Athletics Director: Josh Centor
Faculty Athletics Representative: Susan Polansky

An All-American on and off the field, Sam Benger’s remarkable accomplishments rank him among the most decorated student-athletes in Carnegie Mellon history. The Hingham, Mass., native becomes the Tartans’ fourth NFF National Scholar-Athlete.

A two-time Academic All-American, Benger earned First Team honors in 2016 and Second Team laurels in 2015. A five-time member of the Dean’s List, he has twice been named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll, the UAA President’s Scholar-Athlete Team and the Academic All-UAA team. Maintaining an impressive 3.67 GPA in business administration, he previously interned at Deloitte and is expected to graduate in May 2018.

So far this season, Benger has rushed 140 times for 864 yards and nine touchdowns while adding 15 receptions for 111 yards and two touchdowns. He earned PAC Offensive Player of the Week honors after rushing for 204 yards and two touchdowns in a win over Thiel (Pa.) on Oct. 21. The game marked Benger’s eighth 200-yard game of his career, and his 58 career rushing touchdowns are one shy of the school record.

A two-time First Team All-American, Benger garnered back-to-back PAC Offensive Player of the Year honors in 2016 and 2015. CMU’s all-time leading rusher with 5,197 yards, he also boasts seven other school records, including single-season marks for rushing yards and touchdowns and single-game rushing yards. In 2015, the three-time All-PAC and All-UAA selection led all of Division III with 2,092 rushing yards and 190.2 yards per game. The impressive feat made Benger just the 21st player in Division III history to eclipse the 2,000-yard mark in a single season.

An avid volunteer, Benger has visited with transplant patients at Pittsburgh Children’s Hospital and helped to renovate a dilapidated school as part of Impact Day. A type 1 diabetic, he serves as a mentor for juvenile diabetics in the Pittsburgh area and volunteers for the Special Olympics at CMU. Benger also regularly interacts with a special needs child as a team leader for CMU’s Team IMPACT, and he organized a student “Shark Tank”-style competition aimed at developing solutions to Pittsburgh’s social issues.
ABOUT FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Fidelity’s mission is to inspire better futures and deliver better outcomes for the customers and businesses we serve. With assets under administration of $6.5 trillion, including managed assets of $2.4 trillion as of September 30, 2017, we focus on meeting the unique needs of a diverse set of customers: helping more than 26 million people invest their own life savings, 23,000 businesses manage employee benefit programs, as well as providing more than 12,500 financial advisory firms with investment and technology solutions to invest their own clients’ money. Privately held for 70 years, Fidelity employs more than 40,000 associates who are focused on the long-term success of our customers. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit https://www.fidelity.com/about.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION & COLLEGE HALL OF FAME
Founded in 1947 with early leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame is a non-profit educational organization that runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. With 120 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, NFF programs include FootballMatters.org, the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, The William V. Campbell Trophy® presented by Fidelity Investments, annual scholarships of more than $1.3 million and a series of initiatives to honor the legends of the past and inspire the leaders of the future. NFF corporate partners include Delta Air Lines, Fidelity Investments, Herff Jones, New York Athletic Club, Pasadena Tournament of Roses, PrimeSport, the Sports Business Journal, Under Armour and VICIS. Learn more at www.footballfoundation.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL AWARDS ASSOCIATION
The William V. Campbell Trophy® 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 ncfca.org to learn more about our story.

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame
Building Leaders Through Football & Supporting
• 777 Colleges & Universities • Over 70,000 College Football Players
• 15,585 High Schools • Over 1.1 Million High School Football Players