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Burlsworth Trophy Announces Nominees *Trophy honors outstanding walk-on for fifth year*

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Nov. 11, 2014 – Today, the Burlsworth Trophy and the Springdale (Ark.) Rotary Club announced the 55 players nominated from Division 1 (FBS) schools from across the country for the 2014 Burlsworth Trophy. In the award's fifth year, the Trophy honors Brandon Burlsworth, former University of Arkansas walk-on and All-American offensive lineman. The award will be given to the collegiate player who began their career as a walk-on and has shown outstanding performance on the field. Nominees must have begun their first season of participation with a D1 football program without financial aid of any kind from their athletic department.

The 2013 winner was receiver Jared Abbrederis from the University of Wisconsin. In his four-year career, Abbrederis amassed 3,110 receiving yards on 197 catches, with 23 touchdowns in his Wisconsin career.

The 2014 Burlsworth Trophy nominees are:

School	Player	Year	Position
Arizona	Jared Tevis	SR	Safety
Arizona State	Jordan Simone	JR	Safety
Arkansas	Alan D'Appollonio	SR	Snapper
Arkansas State	Johnston White	FR	Running Back
Baylor	Collin Brence	SR	Linebacker
Bowling Green	Ryan Burbrink	JR	Wide Receiver
Brigham Young	Scott Arellano	SR	Punter
California	Stephen Anderson	JR	Wide Receiver
Central Florida	Brandon Alexander	SR	Def. Back
Central Michigan	Justin Cherocci	SR	Linebacker
Clemson	Michael Sobeski	SR	Snapper
Colorado	Darragh O'Neill	SR	Punter
Colorado State	Kevin O'Brien	JR	Center
East Carolina	Justin Hardy	SR	Inside Receiver
Florida Atlantic	Jenson Stoshak	JR	Wide Receiver
Georgia Southern	Edwin Jackson	SR	Linebacker
Houston	Kyle Bullard	JR	Kicker
Idaho	Ton Hennessey	SR	Safety

Indiana	Collin Rahrig	SR	Center/Guard
Iowa	Mark Weisman	SR	Running Back
Kansas State	Jonathan Truman	SR	Linebacker
Kent State	Casey Pierce	SR	Tight End
LSU	Connor Neighbors	SR	Fullback
Marshall	Chris Jasperse	SR	Center
Memphis	Brandon Hayes	SR	Running Back
Miami	Nantambu-Akil Fentress	SR	Def. Back
Michigan State	Jack Conklin	SO	Off. Tackle
Mississippi State	Ben Beckwith	SR	Guard
Nebraska	Trevor Roach	SR	Linebacker
New Mexico	Zack Rogers	JR	Punter
North Carolina	Mack Hollins	SO	Wide Receiver
Notre Dame	Joe Schmidt	SR	Linebacker
Oklahoma	Aaron Ripkowski	SR	Fullback
Old Dominion	Tyler Compton	SO	Off. Lineman
Oregon State	Keith Kostol	SR	Punter
Rice	Matt Simonette	SR	Center
Rutgers	Michael Burton	SR	Fullback
San Diego State	Joel Alesi	SR	Punter
SMU	Stephen Nelson	SR	Wide Receiver
South Alabama	Qudarius Ford	SR	Cornerback
South Carolina	Elliott Fry	SO	Placekicker
Stanford	David Parry	SR	Def. Tackle
Syracuse	Riley Dixon	SR	Punter
Texas A&M	Joshua Lambo	SR	Placekicker
Texas @ San Antonio	Sean Ianno	SR	Placekicker
Texas State	Charlie Will Tuttle	SR	Off. Guard
Toledo	Drake Fletcher	SR	Linebacker
UCLA	Librado Barocio	SR	Def. Back
UConn	Justin Wain	SO	Punter
Utah	Andy Phillips	SO	Kicker
Utah State	Zach Vigil	SR	Linebacker
Wake Forest	Hunter Williams	JR	Linebacker
Washington State	Cyrus Coen	SR	Linebacker
West Virginia	Michael Molinari	SR	Punter
Wisconsin	Marcus Trotter	SR	Linebacker

"As we enter our 5th year of the Burlsworth Trophy, I am again impressed by the quality of committed athletes that have been selected," said Marty Burlsworth, CEO and founder of the Burlsworth Foundation and older brother of Brandon. "They each represent what the Burlsworth Trophy stands for: hard work, dedication to a sport and to their school and above all else, a commitment to excel at the highest level."

Without one D1 scholarship offer, Brandon Burlsworth walked on to the Razorback team in 1994, worked his way to being a three-year starter and was eventually named an All-American in 1998. Burlsworth was selected as the 63rd overall pick by the Indianapolis Colts in the 1999 NFL draft, but was tragically killed in a car accident 11 days later. The Burlsworth Foundation was created in his

memory and supports the physical and spiritual needs of children, in particular those children who have limited opportunities.

Springdale Rotary Club will host a banquet on Dec. 8th in Springdale, Ark. to honor the finalists and to announce the 2014 winner.

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