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**TWENTY-FIVE TOP COLLEGE QBs NAMED TO INITIAL LIST FOR
THE 2011 JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD (9/28/11) --- The 2011 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award has been narrowed down to 25 candidates.

Named after the man many refer to as the greatest quarterback ever to play the game of football, The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award is presented annually by the Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc. and Transamerica, a leading provider of innovative business and personal financial services (www.transamerica.com).

Candidates for the Golden Arm Award must be completing their college eligibility or be a fourth-year junior, on schedule to graduate with his class. Candidates are judged upon character, citizenship, scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, and athletic accomplishments – qualities that embody the prestige of this award.

The list of this year's top 25 candidates includes:

- John Brantley, Florida
- Zach Collaros, Cincinnati
- Kirk Cousins, Michigan State
- Dayne Crist, Notre Dame
- Austin Davis, Southern Mississippi
- Nick Foles, Arizona
- Robert Griffin III, Baylor
- Chandler Harnish, Northern Illinois
- Tim Jefferson, Air Force
- Landry Jones, Oklahoma
- Ryan Katz, Oregon State
- Case Keenum, Houston
- GJ Kinne, Tulsa
- Andrew Luck, Stanford

- Ryan Lindley, San Diego State
- EJ Manuel, Florida State
- Bryant Moniz, Hawaii
- Kellen Moore, Boise State
- Dan Persa, Northwestern
- Chris Relf, Mississippi State
- Sean Renfree, Duke
- Ryan Tannehill, Texas A & M
- Brandon Weeden, Oklahoma State
- Russell Wilson, Wisconsin
- Tyler Wilson, Arkansas

The 2011 winner will be presented with his award on Friday, December 9, 2011 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Last year's winner of the Golden Arm Award was Wisconsin quarterback Scott Tolzien. Other past winners include: Colt McCoy (Texas, 2009), Matt Ryan (Boston College, 2007), Brady Quinn (Notre Dame, 2006), Matt Leinart (USC, 2005), Eli Manning (Ole Miss, 2003), Carson Palmer (USC, 2002), and Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997).

Proceeds from the Golden Arm Awards help to support the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation. The Foundation provides financial assistance to underprivileged and deserving young scholar-athletes throughout Maryland and Kentucky.

The namesake of the Golden Arm Award has a storied history. Johnny Unitas was an 18-year veteran of the NFL, who played his collegiate career at the University of Louisville before joining the Baltimore Colts in 1958. His career passing figures include 2,830 pass completions for 40,239 yards, 290 touchdowns and one that may stand forever – throwing a touchdown pass in 47 consecutive games.

Unitas was inducted into Pro Football's Hall of Fame in 1979. Further, the Hall of Fame, in commemorations of the NFL's 25th, 50th, and 75th anniversaries selected Unitas as the top quarterback of all-time. In turn-of-the-century listings, he was named to Sports Illustrated's list of top 10 athletes, Time Magazine's list of 10 most influential athletes, and ESPN's series on the 50 greatest athletes of the century.

In addition to Transamerica, sponsors of the Golden Arm Award include Athlon Sports, The Babe Ruth and Sports Legends Museum, Baltimore Sun Media Group, Century Engineering, Comcast, Dunbar Armored, GEICO, HMS Insurance Associates, Inc., R2i Integrated, The Scott Garceau Show, Union Memorial Sports Medicine, Wells Fargo, Weiss PR Associates, Inc., Woodberry Kitchen, and Wilson Sporting Goods.

For more information, visit www.goldenarmaward.com or www.goldenarmfoundation.com. For additional coverage of the 2011 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, visit <http://www.baltimoresun.com/sports/college/golden-arm/>.