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**STANFORD'S ANDREW LUCK WINS
2011 JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD (12/5/11) --- Andrew Luck is the winner of the 2011 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award.

Named after the man many refer to as the greatest quarterback ever to play football, the prestigious Golden Arm Award will be presented this Friday, December 9 at the Intercontinental Harbor Court (550 Light Street in Downtown Baltimore) by the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc. and Transamerica, a leading provider of innovative business and personal financial services (www.transamerica.com).

“Andrew personifies everything that my father stood for. He is not simply an outstanding quarterback, but an outstanding individual, a leader both on and off the field,” says John C. Unitas, Jr. President of The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation.

Luck passed for 3,170 yards and 35 touchdowns for a 167.5 passer rating in leading fourth ranked Stanford to an 11-1 record.

In Luck's 37 career starts, Stanford compiled a 31-6 record (.838), the second highest winning percentage among active FBS quarterbacks. He quarterbacked the Cardinal to back-to-back seasons of at least 11 wins for the first time in school history, and now ranks first on Stanford's all-time career list for touchdown passes (80), total offense (10,043 yards), and completion percentage (.664).

Beyond his impressive numbers on the field, Luck has excelled off the field. He carries a 3.48 cumulative grade point average as an architectural design major and recently was selected to the Pac-12 Conference's All-Academic First Team.

Unitas notes, “Andrew joins a long line of quarterbacks who embody the characteristics that made Johnny Unitas an enduring legend, including many who have gone on to illustrious careers in the NFL.” Former 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), Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997), and Rodney Peete (USC, 1988).

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.

Other finalists for the 2011 Golden Arm Award were: Robert Griffin, III, Baylor; Landry Jones, Oklahoma; Kellen Moore, Boise State; and Brandon Weeden, Oklahoma State.

Among those expected to be on hand for this year's Golden Arm Award ceremony include NFL Hall of Famers and former Baltimore Colts Raymond Berry and Art Donovan. Former Colt Joe Ehrmann, author of the best-selling book *InsideOut Coaching: How Sports Can Transform Lives*, will deliver remarks during the award event.

Proceeds from the Golden Arm Award 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 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.

Additional sponsors for 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., Intercontinental Harbor Court, PSAV Presentation Services, R2i.ntegrated, TrayPML, The Scott Garceau Show, Union Memorial Sports Medicine, VPC, Weiss PR Associates, Inc., Woodberry Kitchen, and Wilson Sporting Goods.

For more information, visit: www.goldenarmfoundation.com, www.baltimoresun.com/sports/college/golden-arm/ or www.athlonsports.com/college-football/golden-arm.