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**TWENTY-TWO CANDIDATES ARE IN THE RUNNING FOR
THE 2009 JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD (7/29/09) --- Twenty-two of the country's top senior college quarterbacks have made the initial cut to be considered for the 2009 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award.

Named after the man many refer to as the greatest quarterback ever to play the game of football, the prestigious Golden Arm Award is presented annually to the top senior college quarterback in the nation by the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc. and Transamerica, a leading provider of innovative business and personal financial services.

The list of this year's candidates includes:

- Jarrett Brown, West Virginia
- Daryll Clark, Penn State
- Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State
- Matt Grothe, University of South Florida
- Max Hall, BYU
- Tim Hiller, Western Michigan
- Mike Kafka, Northwestern
- Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan
- Thaddeus Lewis, Duke
- Corey Leonard, Arkansas State
- Colt McCoy, Texas
- Tony Pike, Cincinnati
- Patrick Pinkney, East Carolina
- Todd Reesing, Kansas
- Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State
- Tyler Sheehan, Bowling Green

- Riley Skinner, Wake Forest
- Rusty Smith, Florida Atlantic
- Tim Tebow, Florida
- Chris Turner, Maryland
- Joe Webb, UAB
- Juice Williams, Illinois

The 2009 winner will be presented with the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award on Friday, December 11 at the Tremont Grand Meeting & Banquet Facility in downtown Baltimore.

Last year's winner of the Golden Arm Award was Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell. Other past winners include: Matt Ryan (Boston College, 2007), Brady Quinn (Notre Dame, 2006), Matt Leinart (USC, 2005), Jason White (University of Oklahoma, 2004), Eli Manning (Ole Miss, 2003), Carson Palmer (USC, 2002), David Carr (Fresno State, 2001), Chris Weinke (Florida State, 2000), Chris Redman (Louisville, 1999), Cade McNown (UCLA, 1998), Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997), Danny Wuerffel (Florida, 1996), Tommie Frazier (Nebraska, 1995), Jay Barker (Alabama, 1994), Charlie Ward (Florida State, 1993), Gino Torretta (Miami, FL, 1992), Casey Weldon (Florida State, 1991), Craig Erickson (Miami, FL, 1990), Tony Rice (Notre Dame, 1989), Rodney Peete (USC, 1988), and Don McPherson (Syracuse, 1987).

The namesake of the Golden Arm Award has a storied history which has earned him the recognition of being the greatest quarterback to ever play in the National Football League. An 18-year veteran of the NFL, Unitas played his collegiate career at the University of Louisville (1951-1954), passing for 3007 yards and 27 touchdowns.

Unitas began his pro career with the Baltimore Colts in 1958 and played there 17 years until joining the San Diego Chargers for his final season. His career passing figures include completing 2,830 of 5,186 passes for 40,239 yards and 290 touchdowns. Among his many records is one that may stand forever, throwing a touchdown pass in 47 consecutive games.

Unitas was selected as the top quarterback of all-time by the Pro Football Hall of Fame 36-member selection committee. In commemorating the NFL's 25th, 50th and 75th anniversaries, he was honored as the **GREATEST QUARTERBACK OF ALL TIME**. A Pro Bowl participant 10 times and a **THREE-TIME MOST VALUABLE PLAYER** honoree, Johnny Unitas was inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1979. In turn of the century listings, he was featured among **SPORTS ILLUSTRATED'S** top ten athletes, **TIME'S** ten most influential athletes, and in ESPN's series on the **50 Greatest Athletes of the Century**.

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.

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For more information, visit www.goldenarmaward.com or www.goldenarmfoundation.com.