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**NCAA DIVISION ONE TOP 10 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED  
FOR NATIONAL ARA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

**2011 Nominees Call Out Football Standouts On and Off Field**

Glenview, Ill., (Oct. 31, 2011) –The results are in for this year’s top 10 finalists for the Awards and Recognition Association (ARA) seventh annual sportsmanship award [www.arasportsmanshipaward.com](http://www.arasportsmanshipaward.com), given to one outstanding NCAA Division I collegiate football player who best personifies the spirit of sportsmanship.

The 2011 Sportsmanship Award recipient will be chosen from 10 finalists and announced this November. “This year’s candidates are an outstanding bunch, there is no shortage of positive role-model athletes,” according to former Brigham Young University Head Football Coach LaVell Edwards who chairs the selection committee.

Previous winners are Arizona Cardinals and former University of Texas defensive end, Sam Acho (2010); Miami Dolphin and former Kansas State University tight end, Jeron Mastrud (2009), Chicago Bears and former Northwestern University receiver Eric Peterman (2008); Winnipeg Blue Bombers and former Washington State quarterback Alex Brink (2007); Cincinnati Bengals and former Rutgers University fullback, Brian Leonard (2006) and, Carolina Panthers and former University of Memphis running back, DeAngelo Williams (2005).

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## **TOP 10 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED – ADD ONE**

The 2011 finalists, in alphabetical order are:

- Ben Boothby, University of Northern Iowa
- Drew Butler, University of Georgia
- Austin Davis, University of Southern Mississippi
- Gilbert “Chaz” Hine, University of South Florida
- Stuart Hines, University of Kentucky
- Barrett Jones, University of Alabama
- Jared Karstetter, Washington State University
- Cory Leman, Eastern Illinois University
- Adam Replogle, Indiana University
- David Ruffer, University of Notre Dame

“We were the lucky ones in our seventh year of reviewing candidates for the sportsmanship award,” said ARA President Guy Barone.

“This is a solid list of impressive young men who live and breathe positive sportsmanship on and off the field. As the only national award that recognizes an athlete’s character and leadership as it translates to sportsmanship, the ARA Sportsmanship Award was created seven years ago to shed light on these important traits.”

To qualify for the award, an athlete must be a starting player or significant contributor on his team; be in good academic standing; demonstrate great respect for competitors, school, teammates and coaches; show an ability to accept victory and defeat graciously; convey a high degree of humility and integrity; and demonstrate commitment in the classroom and to the community.

Along with selection committee chair LaVell Edwards, the other members of the committee include:

- Bobby Bowden (Florida State)
- Fisher DeBerry (Air Force Academy)
- Spike Dykes (Texas Tech)
- Don James (Washington)
- Dick MacPherson (Syracuse)
- Don Nehlen (West Virginia)
- Tubby Raymond (Delaware)

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## TOP 10 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED – ADD TWO

- Gene Stallings (Alabama)
- Ted Tollner (University of Southern California)
- Hub Arkush (Pro Football Weekly)
- Sam Acho (University of Texas, 2010 Winner)
- Jeron Mastrud (Kansas State, 2009 Winner)
- Eric Peterman (Northwestern University, 2008 Winner)
- Alex Brink (Washington State, 2007 Winner)
- Guy Barone (President, Awards and Recognition Association)
- Daniel Doyle, Jr. (Executive Director, the Institute for International Sport)
- John Humenik (Executive Director, College Sports Information Directors of America)
- Bernie Kish (Former Executive Director, College Football Hall of Fame)
- Lisa Klunder (Executive Director, College Football Hall of Fame)
- Grant Teaff (Executive Director, American Football Coaches Association)
- Jim Thompson (Founder and Executive Director, the Positive Coaching Alliance)

For more details, visit. [www.arasportsmanshipaward.com](http://www.arasportsmanshipaward.com).

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