



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEWAARATON AWARD ANNOUNCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S 2018 FINALISTS

WASHINGTON, May 10 – The Tewaaraton Foundation has announced the five men's and five women's finalists for the 2018 Tewaaraton Award. The Tewaaraton Award is recognized as the preeminent lacrosse award, annually honoring the top male and female college lacrosse player in the United States. These 10 student-athletes will be invited to Washington, D.C., for the 18th annual Tewaaraton Award Ceremony on May 31.

The five men's finalists are:

Trevor Baptiste, Denver - Sr., Faceoff
Justin Guterding, Duke - Sr., Attack
Connor Kelly, Maryland - Sr., Midfield
Ben Reeves, Yale - Sr., Attack
Pat Spencer, Loyola - Jr., Attack

The five women's finalists are:

Sam Apuzzo, Boston College - Jr., Attack
Kristen Gaudian, James Madison - Sr., Attack
Marie McCool, North Carolina - Sr., Midfield
Kylie Ohlmiller, Stony Brook - Sr., Attack
Megan Whittle, Maryland - Sr., Attack

Trevor Baptiste, Ben Reeves and Pat Spencer, as well as Marie McCool and Kylie Ohlmiller return as finalists from 2017. Reeves joins Matt Danowski, Kyle Harrison, Michael Powell and Lyle Thompson as the only three-time men's finalists in the 18-year history of the Tewaaraton Award. All 10 finalists will compete in this month's NCAA Men's and Women's Tournaments, respectively, at the conclusion of which the selection committees will vote on and select the 2018 winners.

"The Tewaaraton Foundation congratulates these 10 finalists that have been chosen from a standout pool of talented nominees," said Jeffrey Harvey, chairman of The Tewaaraton

Foundation. “We look forward to welcoming each of them and their families to Washington, D.C., on May 31 and wish them the very best in their respective playoff journeys.”

The Tewaaron Award annually honors the top male and top female college lacrosse player in the United States. Finalists come from a pool of 25 men’s and 25 women’s nominees that were announced April 26. The selection committees are comprised of 17 men’s and 17 women’s current and former college coaches.

Brief bios of the men’s finalists:

Denver faceoff specialist and returning Tewaaron finalist **Trevor Baptiste** earned BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year for a fourth consecutive season. The senior from Denville, N.J., ranks second in the nation with a 76.9% faceoff percentage and third with 250 faceoffs wins, while also collecting 144 ground balls (9.6 per game), good for sixth in the country. The 2018 U.S. Men’s National Team member and Senior CLASS Award finalist helped the Pioneers to the team’s fifth straight outright BIG EAST regular season title. He has pulled to within three faceoff wins of setting the NCAA Division I career record for faceoff wins, and also ranks second all-time in ground balls. Baptiste is Denver’s fourth finalist and would be the Pioneers’ first Tewaaron winner.

Duke attackman **Justin Guterding** headlines the nation’s No. 6 offense, leading the ACC and the nation with 56 goals and 96 points. On a per-game basis, Guterding ranks first in goals, ninth in assists and second in points in the nation, all while shooting at an efficient 50% clip, good for 10th in the country. The senior captain earned his third All-ACC selection and was named ACC Offensive Player of the Year, joining Zack Greer as the second player in NCAA Division I history to record 200 career goals and becoming one of 13 players in Division I history to amass 300 career points. He needs five goals to surpass Greer’s NCAA-record 206. A native of Garden City, N.Y., Guterding looks to become the fourth-seeded Blue Devils’ third Tewaaron winner, and is the program’s 13th finalist.

Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year **Connor Kelly** led Maryland with 40 goals, 33 assists and 73 points, helping the Terps earn the NCAA Tournament’s No. 1 seed for a third consecutive season after Maryland claimed outright the Big Ten regular season championship. A unanimous first team All-Big Ten selection and Big Ten All-Tournament Team honoree, the senior midfielder ranked first in the conference in points and points per game (4.86), while leading the Big Ten with four game-winning goals. The Easton, Conn., native joined 2016 Tewaaron Legend Frank Urso as the only midfielders in Maryland history to record 40 goals in a campaign. Kelly looks to follow Matt Rambo as the Terrapins’ second Tewaaron winner, and is Maryland’s third finalist.

Yale senior attackman **Ben Reeves** captained the nation’s third-ranked offense to the first undefeated Ivy League regular season in program history and No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament, leading the Bulldogs with 51 goals, 39 assists and 90 points en route to Ivy League Player of the Year honors for the second consecutive season. The three-time first team All-Ivy performer and Ivy League All-Tournament Team honoree from Macedon, N.Y., led the league in

goals and goals per game (3.19), ranking second in the nation in both categories, as well as top 10 in points, points per game, assists and assists per game. Reeves, who was Yale's first Tewaaron finalist as a sophomore in 2016 and is the program's all-time leading goal- and point-scorer, would be the Bulldogs' first winner.

Loyola attackman and returning Tewaaron finalist **Pat Spencer** was named Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year for the third consecutive year as the Greyhounds took home the league's regular season and tournament championships. The Patriot League Tournament MVP and three-time first team All-Patriot League performer paced the nation's fifth-ranked scoring offense and the league with 90 points and 55 assists, while ranking in the nation's top five in points, points per game, assists and assists per game. The junior from Davidsonville, Md., set the Loyola and Patriot League career assists record with 162, and his 256 career points are already tops all-time in league history. Spencer would be the Greyhounds' first Tewaaron winner among four finalists.

Brief bios of the women's finalists:

ACC Attacker of the Year **Sam Apuzzo** helped Boston College to a record-setting campaign that saw the Eagles complete the program's first perfect regular season, rack up 19 consecutive wins and win the ACC regular-season championship en route to the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Tournament. The junior set a program record with 127 draw controls, and leads the ACC with 79 goals and 112 points, while also pacing the Eagles with 33 assists. Her 27 caused turnovers and 40 ground balls are good for second and third on the Eagles, respectively. A two-time All-ACC first team performer and ACC All-Tournament team selection, the West Babylon, N.Y., native ranks third in the nation in points and fourth in goals. She would be Boston College's first Tewaaron winner, and follow Sarah Mannelly (2015) as the program's second finalist.

James Madison attacker and CAA Player of the Year **Kristen Gaudian** leads the Dukes and the CAA with 67 goals and 82 points. A two-time first-team All-CAA performer and 2018 CAA Championship All-Tournament team selection, Gaudian set single-season (26) and career (44) school records for free-position goals, and also ranks second on the squad with 67 draw controls. The senior from Fairfax Station, Va., helped James Madison to a program-record 18 wins, including the CAA's regular-season and conference championships, and a school-best No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Gaudian is the Dukes' first finalist since Gail Decker in 2004, and would be the program's first Tewaaron winner.

Returning Tewaaron finalist **Marie McCool** became the first player in conference history to repeat as ACC Midfielder of the Year, leading North Carolina to a third consecutive ACC Championship and the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament. A three-time first team All-ACC selection, the senior from Moorestown, N.J., leads the Tar Heels with 39 ground balls, 23 caused turnovers and 141 draw controls, while her 58 goals and 74 points are good for second and fourth on the team, respectively. The ACC All-Tournament team performer also ranks in the conference's top five in goals per game and is fifth nationally in draw controls. McCool is North Carolina's seventh finalist, and would be the program's first Tewaaron winner.

Stony Brook senior attacker **Kylie Ohlmiller** continues her record-breaking trajectory, surpassing Tewaaron winners Jen Adams and Hannah Nielsen, respectively, to become the NCAA Division I all-time leader in career points (478) and assists (240). Ohlmiller paced the Seawolves' second-ranked offense with 145 points, 7.63 points per game and 64 assists, all good for tops in the nation for the regular season. She propelled Stony Brook to an undefeated 19-0 record, a sixth consecutive America East Championship and the No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament. The Islip, N.Y., native netted her second consecutive America East Offensive Player of the Year award, third America East Championship Most Outstanding Player recognition and was named to the all-conference first team for the fourth time. Ohlmiller is a finalist for the second time and would be the Seawolves' first Tewaaron winner.

Maryland attacker **Megan Whittle** leads the Terps and the Big Ten with 74 goals and 86 points, ranking in the nation's top 10 in both categories. She scored a career-high eight goals to lift the Terrapins to the team's third straight Big Ten Championship, claiming Tournament MVP and helping the Terps to the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. A native of Glenwood, Md., Whittle earned her second Big Ten Attack Player of the Year honors, to go with a fourth consecutive All-Big Ten Team selection. The senior captain surpassed former Tewaaron winner Jen Adams as Maryland's career leader in goals, and sits just one goal behind Temple's Gail Cummings (289) for the second-most career goals in NCAA history. She seeks to become the Terps' seventh consecutive and ninth overall Tewaaron winner.

The guidelines for finalists and recipient selections are as follows:

- Finalists will be the best five players chosen without regard to institution.
- Finalists will be selected based on individual performance and a player's contribution to the success of their team.
- Finalists are chosen based on the current year's regular-season performance (date of selection is at the conclusion of the regular season, before playoffs).
- Recipients are chosen based on the current year's regular season and playoff performance.
- Sportsmanship can play a role in the selection process and it is important that the recipient upholds the mission and values of the Tewaaron Award.

This year's initial Tewaaron Watch Lists were [announced on March 1](#) and included the top 50 men's and women's college lacrosse players in the country. Two rounds of additions to the Watch Lists were announced, on [March 22](#) and [April 12](#), before the official 25 men and 25 women nominees [came out on April 26](#).

For more information on the Tewaaron Award, how to donate to this non-profit or to attend this year's May 31 ceremony, visit Tewaaron.com. Like and follow The Tewaaron Foundation at Facebook.com/Tewaaron, Twitter.com/Tewaaron and Instagram.com/Tewaaron.

About The Tewaaron Foundation

Founded at the University Club of Washington, DC and first presented in 2001, the Tewaaron

Award is recognized as the preeminent lacrosse award, annually honoring the top male and female college lacrosse player in the United States. Endorsed by the Mohawk Nation Council of Elders and U.S. Lacrosse, the Tewaaron Award symbolizes lacrosse's centuries-old roots in Native American heritage. The Tewaaron Foundation ensures the integrity and advances the mission of this award. Each year, the Tewaaron Award celebrates one of the six tribal nations of the Iroquois Confederacy – the Mohawk, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora – and presents two scholarships to students of Native American descent. To learn more about The Tewaaron Foundation, please visit www.tewaaron.com.

###

Media Contact
Sarah Aschenbach
The Tewaaron Foundation
sarah@tewaaron.com
202.255.1485

Media credentials are available for the Tewaaron Award Ceremony in the News and Press section of www.tewaaron.com. Credential requests are due by Tuesday, May 30.