



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon's Thomas Graham Named Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Player of the Week Week 2

Oklahoma City, OK – Oregon's Thomas Graham has been named the **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** Player of the Week for week 2.

Thomas Graham, Oregon, Freshman, Defensive Back, Rancho Cucamonga, California

Graham played a key role in last week's win over Nebraska by recording 7 tackles, a tackle for loss and a pair of early interceptions to allow the Ducks to jump out to a big halftime lead.

Honorable Mention Players for Week Two:

Marcus Allen, Penn State, Senior, Defensive Back, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Allen played a vital role in Penn State's victory over Pittsburgh by recording a team-best 12 tackles. Along with his top tackle mark, Allen also added a tfl and pbu to his stat line.

Tyree Kinnel, Michigan, Junior, Defensive Back, Dayton, Ohio

Kinnel was a big part of Michigan's win over Cincinnati as he tied for the team lead with 9 tackles and returned his 1st career interception 28 yards for a touchdown.

Ron LaForce, New Mexico State, Junior, Defensive Back, Bayou La Batre, Alabama

LaForce recorded 6 tackles and had 2 key interceptions on back-to-back drives in the Aggies 30-28 win over rival New Mexico.

Essang Bassey, Wake Forest, Sophomore, Defensive Back, Columbus, Georgia

Bassey recorded 5 tackles and returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown in the Deacons' 34-10 win over Boston College.

Kendall Adams, Kansas State, Junior, Defensive Back, Fort Worth, Texas

Adams found the end zone on 2 occasions in the Wildcats' 55-7 win over Charlotte. Along with his 4

tackles, Adams returned an interception 30 yards and a fumble 46 yards for touchdowns.

About the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award:

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** is one of the most coveted awards in college football. It is awarded to the best defensive back in college football based on performance on the field, athletic ability and character. The award was established in 1986 and is named after history's greatest all-around athlete, Jim Thorpe. Thorpe excelled as a running back, passer and kicker on the offensive side of the ball, but also stood out as a defensive back. In addition to his legendary performance on the football field, Thorpe played professional baseball and won Olympic gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon.

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** watch list is chosen by a screening committee who compile a list of 30-50 players. The list is not final, and players who have outstanding seasons are added as the season progresses. The Thorpe Award Winner is selected from three finalists and will be announced at The Home Depot College Football Awards on Thursday, December 7, 2017 on ESPN.

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** Banquet will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Paycom Software, Inc. ("Paycom") (NYSE:PAYC), a leading provider of comprehensive, cloud-based human capital management software, and the Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (OSHO) jointly announced in May of 2017 an exclusive sponsorship of the Jim Thorpe Award. As a result, the accolade is now named the "Paycom Jim Thorpe Award."

The **Paycom Jim Thorpe Award** is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA) which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 23 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit www.NCFAA.org to learn more about our story.

Each week, Phil Steele will be overlooking the candidates issued by the school, the conference and distinguished committee members. After including his own personal input, the player of the week will be announced every Wednesday at www.oksportshof.org and PhilSteele.com.