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Big 12 Announces Media Preseason Football Team

Irving, Texas - The Big 12 Conference has announced its 2017 Preseason All-Big 12 Football Team and individual awards, chosen by media representatives who cover the league.

The honorees include 14 seniors, 12 juniors and three sophomores. Only three players were unanimous selections at their position with Kansas defensive lineman Dorance Armstrong Jr., Oklahoma offensive lineman Orlando Brown and Oklahoma State receiver James Washington. Fourteen were named to the 2016 All-Big 12 First Team while eight were on the second team.

Selections for the preseason individual awards were quarterback Baker Mayfield (Oklahoma) as Offensive Player of the Year, lineman Dorance Armstrong Jr. (Kansas) as Defensive Player of the Year and quarterback Will Grier (West Virginia) as Newcomer of the Year.

Mayfield was a 2016 Heisman Trophy finalist and named to the All-Big 12 First Team while leading the Sooners to their second-straight Big 12 Championship and a win over Auburn in the Allstate Sugar Bowl. He is the only player in OU history to register at least 5,000 career passing yards (7,665) and rushing yards (582). Last season, Mayfield set the FBS single season pass efficiency rating record with a mark of 196.4 and also led the nation in completion percentage (70.9) and yards per pass attempt (11.1). He threw for 3,965 yards and 40 touchdowns against just eight interceptions.

Armstrong was a unanimous All-Big 12 First Team selection in 2016 as a sophomore. He registered 10.0 sacks to place second in the Conference and 18th nationally. His 20.0 tackles-for-loss led the Big 12 and was the fifth-best total in the NCAA. Armstrong recorded 56 total tackles last season along with five quarterback hurries, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. His three forced fumbles tied for first in the league.

Grier begins his first season as a junior signal caller for West Virginia after sitting out 2016 to fulfill NCAA transfer requirements. He played in six games and started five as a redshirt freshman at Florida in 2015, completing 106-of-161 passes for 1,204 yards, 10 touchdowns and three interceptions. He finished with 20 or more completions in three games and threw multiple TD passes in four outings.

The Big 12 media preseason poll will be released on Thursday, followed by the annual Big 12 Football Media Days to be conducted in Frisco, Texas on July 17-18. Both days will be televised live from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT on FS2 and other FOX Sports affiliates. Exclusive coverage from the event will also be available on the Big 12's digital platforms - Big12Sports.com, Twitter and Instagram (@Big12Conference). The official hashtag for the event will be #Big12FB.

2017 Preseason All-Big 12 Football Team

Offensive Player of the Year: Baker Mayfield, Oklahoma, QB, Sr., Austin, Texas
Defensive Player of the Year: Dorance Armstrong Jr., Kansas, DE, Jr., Houston, Texas
Newcomer of the Year: Will Grier, West Virginia, QB, Jr., Davidson, N.C.

Offense

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
QB	Baker Mayfield ¹	Oklahoma	6-1	220	Sr.	Austin, Texas
RB	Justice Hill ²	Oklahoma State	5-10	185	So.	Tulsa, Okla.
RB	Justin Crawford ²	West Virginia	6-0	202	Sr.	Columbus, Ga.
FB	Winston Dimel ¹	Kansas State	6-1	235	Jr.	Manhattan, Kan.
WR	James Washington* ¹	Oklahoma State	6-0	205	Sr.	Stamford, Texas
WR	Allen Lazard ¹	Iowa State	6-5	222	Sr.	Urbandale, Iowa
WR	Keke Coutee ³	Texas Tech	5-11	180	Jr.	Lufkin, Texas
TE	Mark Andrews ¹	Oklahoma	6-5	254	Jr.	Scottsdale, Ariz.
OL	Orlando Brown* ¹	Oklahoma	6-8	345	Jr.	Duluth, Ga.
OL	Connor Williams ¹	Texas	6-6	320	Jr.	Coppell, Texas
OL	Dalton Risner ¹	Kansas State	6-5	300	Jr.	Wiggins, Colo.
OL	Austin Schlottmann ²	TCU	6-6	300	Sr.	Brenham, Texas
OL	Zach Crabbtree ²	Oklahoma State	6-7	310	Sr.	Mansfield, Texas
PK	Clayton Hatfield	Texas Tech	5-10	185	Jr.	Boerne, Texas
KR/PR	KaVontae Turpin ³	TCU	5-9	153	Jr.	Monroe, La.

Defense

DL	Dorance Armstrong Jr.* ¹	Kansas	6-4	246	Jr.	Houston, Texas
DL	K.J. Smith ¹	Baylor	6-1	260	Sr.	Frisco, Texas
DL	Reggie Walker	Kansas State	6-2	235	So.	Ponchatoula, La.
DL	Poona Ford ³	Texas	6-0	310	Sr.	Hilton Head, S.C.
DL	Malcolm Roach ³	Texas	6-3	270	So.	Baton Rouge, La.
LB	Travin Howard ¹	TCU	6-1	213	Sr.	Longview, Texas
LB	Ogbonnia Okoronkwo ²	Oklahoma	6-1	240	Sr.	Houston, Texas
LB	Malik Jefferson	Texas	6-3	240	Jr.	Mesquite, Texas
DB	D.J. Reed ¹	Kansas State	5-9	188	Jr.	Bakersfield, Calif.
DB	Jordan Thomas ¹	Oklahoma	6-0	185	Sr.	Klein, Texas
DB	Tre Flowers ²	Oklahoma State	6-3	200	Sr.	Converse, Texas
DB	Kamari Cotton-Moya ²	Iowa State	6-2	198	Sr.	Bakersfield, Calif.
DB	Nick Orr ²	TCU	6-3	187	Sr.	DeSoto, Texas
P	Michael Dickson ¹	Texas	6-3	205	Jr.	Sydney, Australia

*Unanimous Selection to Preseason Team

¹ 2016 All-Big 12 First Team selection

² 2016 All-Big 12 Second Team selection

³ 2016 All-Big 12 Honorable Mention