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K-STATE'S COLLIN KLEIN WINS 2012 JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD

BALTIMORE, MD (12/3/12) --- Kansas State's Collin Klein is the winner of the 2012 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award.

Klein, whom many regard as the heart and soul of the team leading the deepest conference in college football, was selected from an original field of 29 of college's top quarterbacks, including finalists A.J. McCarron (Alabama), Geno Smith (West Virginia), Matt Barkley (USC), and E.J. Manuel (Florida State).

Named after the man many refer to as the greatest quarterback ever to play the game of football, The Golden Arm Award will be presented to Klein this coming Friday, December 7, at a ceremony held from 6-9 pm. at The Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel, 550 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

"Collin is not just a tremendous athlete and leader on the field, but an MVP off the field as well, who repeatedly has been recognized for his numerous contributions to the community and to the spirit of sportsmanship" says John C. Unitas, Jr., President of The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation. The Golden Arm Award is presented annually by the Foundation and Transamerica, a leading provider of innovative business and personal financial services.

Heisman pundit Chris Huston of CBS Sports recently noted, "No player has better defined his team and its success over the past couple of seasons than Collin Klein." This year alone, Klein has completed 180 of 272 passes for 2,490 yards and 15 touchdowns.

As a player who will go down as one of the best in K-State history as both a passer and runner, Klein ranks in the top 10 in school history in rushing touchdowns (1st; 55), touchdown responsibility (1st; 84), scoring (2nd; 336), total yards (3rd; 7,028), passing efficiency (3rd; 141.05), rushing attempts (3rd; 588), rushing yards (5th; 2,455), completions (5th, 353), passing touchdowns (6th; 29), passing yards (7th; 4,573) and pass attempts (8th; 572). His 55 rushing touchdowns also rank fourth in Big 12 history and second among quarterbacks.

Off the field, Klein has been a star as well, leading him to be named a finalist for the ARA Sportsmanship Award, honoring the player that best personifies the spirit of sportsmanship, and one of 11 FBS players selected for the AFCA Good Works team, recognizing positive impact in the community.

“Collin joins a prestigious list of top quarterbacks who embody the characteristics that made Johnny Unitas such an enduring legend, including many who have gone on to illustrious careers in the NFL,” notes Unitas, Jr.

Former winners of the Golden Arm Award include Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997), Carson Palmer (USC, 2002), Eli Manning (Ole Miss, 2003), Brady Quinn (Notre Dame, 2006), Matt Ryan (Boston College, 2007), Colt McCoy (Texas, 2009), and Andrew Luck (Stanford, 2011).

Candidates for the Golden Arm Award must be completing college eligibility or be a fourth-year junior, on schedule to graduate with his class. Candidates are judged upon character, citizenship, scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, and athletic accomplishments.

Proceeds from the Golden Arm Award 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.

The namesake of the Golden Arm Award has a storied history. Johnny Unitas was an 18-year veteran of the NFL, who played his collegiate career at the University of Louisville before joining the Baltimore Colts in 1958. His career passing figures include 2,830 pass completions for 40,239 yards, 290 touchdowns and throwing a touchdown pass in 47 consecutive games.

Unitas was inducted into Pro Football’s Hall of Fame in 1979. The Hall of Fame, in commemorations of the NFL’s 25th, 50th, and 75th anniversaries selected Unitas as the top quarterback of all-time. In turn-of-the-century listings, he was named to Sports Illustrated’s list of top 10 athletes, Time Magazine’s list of 10 most influential athletes, and ESPN’s series on the 50 greatest athletes of the century

In addition to Transamerica, sponsors of the Golden Arm Award include: Athlon Sports, The Babe Ruth and Sports Legends Museum, Baltimore Sun Media Group, Bloomberg Television, Century Engineering, Coach for America, Comcast, Dunbar Armored, GEICO, HMS Insurance Associates, Inc., Metropolis Funding, Panini, PSAV Presentation Services, R2i.ntegrated, Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel, TRAY, The Scott Garceau Show, Union Memorial Sports Medicine, VPC, Inc., Weiss PR Associates, Inc., Woodberry Kitchen, and Wilson Sporting Goods.

For more information, visit: www.goldenarmfoundation.com or www.baltimoresun.com/sports/college/golden-arm/.