

Nominees for Pro Football Hall of Fame cut to 25

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

When the field of Pro Football Hall of Fame modern era semifinalists was cut to 25 Tuesday, it included three first-ballot nominees — quarterback Brett Favre, guard Alan Faneca and wide receiver Terrell Owens.

These 25 join previously nominated seniors — quarterback Ken Stabler and lineman Dick Stanfel, along with contributor/ owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. as the full roster of names to be considered by induction into the 2016 Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The selection committee will address this task Feb. 6 in San Francisco, the day before Super 50 is played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif.

Two other players, tackle Tony Boselli and linebacker Sam Mills, are semifinalists for the first time, although they were previously eligible. Among the 25 semifinalists are 22 players — 15 from of

fense, six defense, one special teams) and three coaches.

The single, overriding rule regarding what is supposed to be considered for inclusion in the exclusive club is each candidate's play on the field. But as insight and opinions on modern players are impacted by the ubiquitous voice of social media and other paths of information, considerations by selectors seem to have been impacted by elements beyond what actually happens on the field.

During discussions with selectors during the last few months, it is clear that the prolific career of Owens will be balanced against controversial acts and actions that occurred off the field. Even Favre, who should be a slam dunk first ballot inductee, collected detractors during his extended farewell tour to the NFL.

The top 10 semifinalists are:

— Morten Andersen, K — 1982-94 New Orleans Saints, 1995-2000, 2006-07 Atlanta

Falcons, 2001 New York Giants, 2002-03 Kansas City Chiefs, 2004 Minnesota Vikings ; four times as a semifinalist, 2013-16

— Isaac Bruce, WR — 1994-2007 Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams, 2008-09 San Francisco 49ers; two times as a semifinalist, 2015-16

— Don Coryell, coach — 1973-77 St. Louis Cardinals, 1978-86 San Diego Chargers ; eight times as a semifinalist, 2005, 2010-16

— Brett Favre, QB — 1991 Atlanta Falcons, 1992-2007 Green Bay Packers, 2008 New York Jets, 2009-10 Minnesota Vikings; one time as a semifinalist (2016)

— Kevin Greene, LB/DE — 1985-92 Los Angeles Rams, 1993-95 Pittsburgh Steelers, 1996, 1998-99 Carolina Panthers, 1997 San Francisco 49ers; 10 times as a semifinalist, 2007-16

— Marvin Harrison, WR — 1996-2008 Indianapolis Colts; three times as a semifinalist, 2014-16

— Joe Jacoby, T — 1981-93 Washington Redskins; six

times as a semifinalist, 2005, 2008, 2013-16

— Edgerrin James, RB — 1999-2005 Indianapolis Colts, 2006-08 Arizona Cardinals, 2009 Seattle Seahawks; two times as a semifinalist: 2 — 2015-16

— Terrell Owens, WR — 1996-2003 San Francisco 49ers, 2004-05 Philadelphia Eagles, 2006-08 Dallas Cowboys, 2009 Buffalo Bills, 2010 Cincinnati Bengals; one times as a semifinalist, 2016

— Orlando Pace, T — 1997-2008 St. Louis Rams, 2009 Chicago Bears; two times as a semifinalist: 2 — 2015-16

The rest of the 2016 modern era nominees:

— Steve Atwater, S — 1989-98 Denver Broncos, 1999 New York Jets; five times as a semifinalist, 2012-16

— Tony Boselli, T — 1995-2001 Jacksonville Jaguars, 2002 Houston Texans; one time as a semifinalist, 2016

— Roger Craig, RB — 1983-90 San Francisco 49ers, 1991 Los Angeles Raiders,

1992-93 Minnesota Vikings, eight times as a semifinalist, 2009-16

— Terrel Davis, RB — 1995-2001 Denver Broncos; 10 times as a semifinalist, 2007-16

— Tony Dungy, coach — 1996-2001 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 2002-08 Indianapolis Colts; three times as a semifinalist, 2014-16

— Alan Faneca, G — 1998-2007 Pittsburgh Steelers, 2008-09 New York Jets, 2010 Arizona Cardinals; one time as a Semifinalist, 2016

— Torry Holt, WR — 1999-2008 St. Louis Rams, 2009 Jacksonville Jaguars; two times as semifinalist, 2015, 2016

— Jimmy Johnson, coach — 1989-93 Dallas Cowboys, 1996-99 Miami Dolphins; three times as a semifinalist, 2014-16

— Mike Kenn, T — 1978-94 Atlanta Falcons; two times as a semifinalist, 2015-16

— Ty Law, CB — 1995-2004 New England Patriots, 2005, 2008 New York Jets, 2006-07 Kansas City Chiefs, 2009

Denver Broncos; two times as a semifinalist, 2015-16

— John Lynch, FS — 1993-2003 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 2004-07 Denver Broncos; four times as a semifinalist, 2013-16

— Kevin Mawae, C/G — 1994-97 Seattle Seahawks, 1998-2005 New York Jets, 2006-09 Tennessee Titans; two times as a semifinalist, 2015-16

— Karl Mecklenburg, LB — 1983-94 Denver Broncos; five times as a Semifinalist, 2012-16

— Sam Mills, LB — 1986-94 New Orleans Saints, 1995-97 Carolina Panthers; one time as a semifinalist, 2016

— Kurt Warner, QB — 1998-2003 St. Louis Rams, 2004 New York Giants, 2005-09 Arizona Cardinals; two times as a semifinalist, 2015-16

To be considered for election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, a nominated player or coach must not have participated as an active player or coach for five consecutive seasons.

Giants aim to build on lead

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Don't look now, but the New York Giants' Week 12 game against Washington suddenly became a lot more interesting.

Although Washington (4-6) was destroyed by Carolina 44-16 and the Giants were on a bye in Week 11, the dominoes have fallen in such a way where their game at FedEx Field this Sunday will determine whether the Giants (5-5) remain a full game in first place in the division.

If the Giants win, they'll improve to 6-5, their grip on first place in the division becoming more secure as a win will give them the head-to-head tiebreaker over their oldest rival.

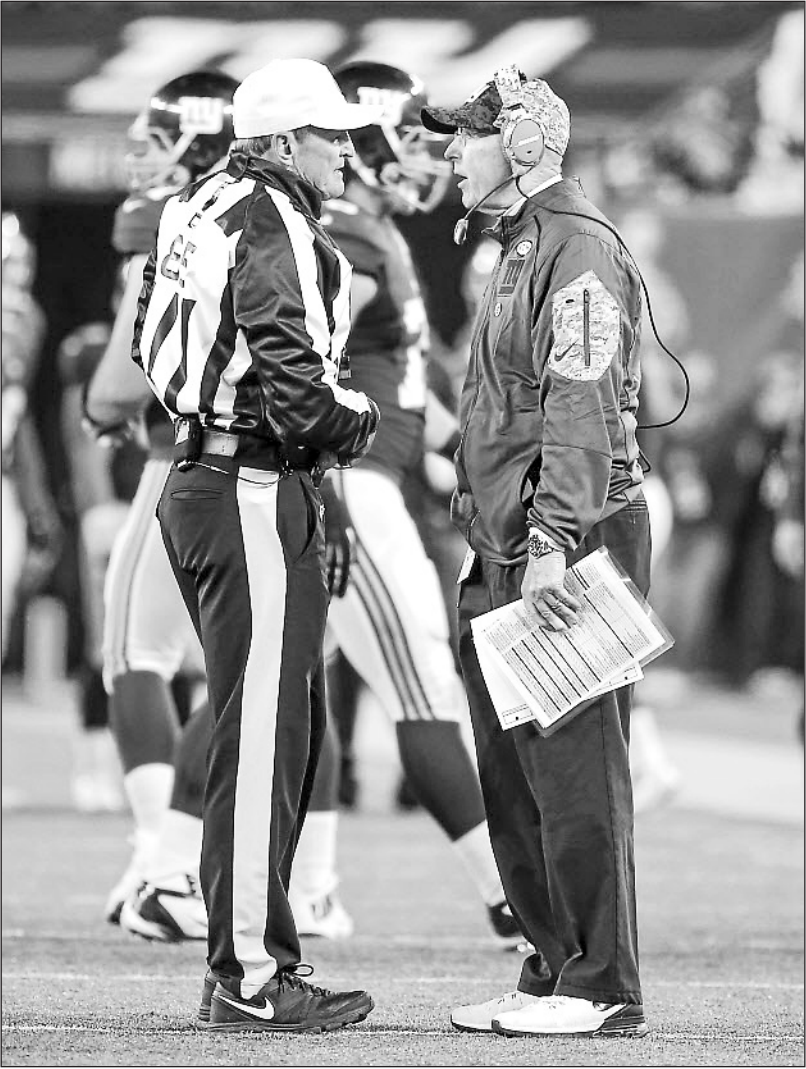
If they lose, Washington would move ahead of New York based on a better division record (2-1) to the Giants' 2-3.

"There's definitely a lot to play for right now," center Weston Richburg said. "These next six games are crucial to our postseason destiny, so it's very important to focus on each one as our most important game of season."

The last time the Giants played in a post-Thanksgiving game that meant anything was in 2012 when they saw their 6-4 record morph into a 9-7 record which, unlike the previous season, wasn't good enough to get them into the postseason.

Head coach Tom Coughlin's message to his players is simple: forget about the first 10 games and take each remaining game one at a time.

"Six-game season, that's exactly what it is. Every game is a critical game. We are relevant and now we've got to do something about it," Coughlin said. "Finish — that word



JIM O'CONNOR | USA TODAY

New York Giants head coach Tom Coughlin discusses a call with referee Ed Hochuli during the second quarter against the New England Patriots at MetLife Stadium on Nov. 15.

Vicaire powers UMPI by CMCC

AUBURN — Chase Vicaire poured in 29 points to power the University of Maine-Presque Isle Owls to an 80-68 men's basketball victory over the Central Maine Community College Mustangs Tuesday night.

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Vicaire also had four rebounds and three assists as UMPI improved to 2-1. Nick Lenhard chipped in with 16 points and Brandon McGill added 11. Maurice Harris contributed seven points and four assists.

Rob Skinner scored 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead CMCC, now 8-3. Carrington Miller added 17 points and nine rebounds while Elijah Barbour had 15 points.

UMPI took a 40-31 half-time lead.

UMass Dartmouth 91, Husson 88

At North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Atakan Akcam hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left to give UMass Dartmouth the win over the Eagles of Bangor.

Husson's Raheem Anderson had tied the game at 88-88 when he sank a free throw with 10 seconds left.

Jordan Rezendes paced UMD (3-2) with 33 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds. Nick Portelance added 17 points and Jon Robinson netted 13.

Anderson finished with 30 points to lead Husson (1-1). Trevon Butler added 23 points while Zach Curran and Eli Itkin each put in nine. Alonzo McCain had six assists.

Colby 77, Thomas 61

At Colby's Wadsworth Gym in Waterville, the Mules took a three-point halftime lead and then outscored the Terriers 42-29 to

earn the win.

Ryan Jann sparked Colby (2-1) with 17 points. Patrick Stewart chipped in with 12 points and nine rebounds while Sam Willson contributed 11 points and seven rebounds. Chris Hudnut had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Tyheem Simon paced Thomas with 18 points and Levi Barnes added 13 points and seven rebounds.

UNE 72, Bowdoin 70

At Brunswick, a Matt Lettick layup gave the University of New England a 72-67 lead with 2:15 remaining and the Nor'easters held the Polar Bears to two Lucas Hausman free throws at the 31-second mark to secure the victory.

Devin Thompson scored 22 points to lead UNE (3-3) while Gavin Dibble contributed 16 points and five rebounds. C.J. Autry added 11 points and Drew Coveney had seven rebounds and five assists.

Women's Basketball

Colby 81, Thomas 31

At Colby's Wadsworth Gym in Waterville, Katie McCrum and Desi Smith each scored 13 points to help Colby improve to 3-0.

Carylanne Wolfington added 11 points for Colby, which forced 31 Thomas turnovers and had 25 steals. Emily Davis contributed 10 rebounds and three steals.

Katie McAllister paced Thomas (0-3) with 13 points while Ashleigh Gagne contributed nine points, eight rebounds and three assists.

USM 65, Bates 56

At Gorham, the University of Southern Maine Huskies took a two-point lead at halftime and then outscored the Bobcats of Lewiston 15-10 in the third quarter to pull out the victory.

3 UMaine players receive All-CAA honors

ORONO — Six members of the University of Maine football team received Colonial Athletic Association All-Conference honors on Tuesday.

COLLEGE REPORT

Offensive lineman Bruce Johnson and defensive line-men Trevor Bates and Pat Ricard each received first-team accolades. Wide receiver Micah Wright and senior linebacker Randy Samuels were named to the second team while junior receiver Jordan Dunn was named to the third team.

Johnson receives his second straight first team honor. He started all 11 games at center for the Black Bears and led an offensive line which ranked tied for fourth in sacks allowed (18), down 23 from a year ago.

Bates receives first-team honors for the first time in his career and his third overall all-conference

honor. The senior defensive end finished second on the team with 57 tackles and led the team in sacks with 7.5. Bates ranked third in the league in tackles for loss (14.5) and third in sacks.

Ricard, a junior, led the league in tackles-for-loss (16.5), ranked second in forced fumbles (3), sixth in sacks (7.0) and finished fourth on the squad with 53 total tackles.

Wright led all freshmen and finished second in the CAA with 61 receptions, and he was second among freshmen and in the conference with 818 yards. His five touchdowns tied for fifth among FCS freshmen for the Black Bears.

Samuels, a senior linebacker, appeared in all 11 games and led the Black Bears with 72 tackles while adding 7.0 tackles for a loss, and 2.0 sacks.

Dunn, a junior receiver, had a career year, finishing with 56 receptions for 595

yards and three touchdowns.

MMA names new lacrosse coach

Bob Aronson was named Maine Maritime Academy's head men's lacrosse coach on Tuesday. He replaces Adam Sherman, who is staying at MMA athletics in a full-time capacity.

Aronson brought the sport of lacrosse to Medfield, Massachusetts in 1994, and led the first varsity program at Medfield High School from 2000 to 2011. During that time, Aronson led the Warriors to 11 quarterfinal appearances, nine final four appearances and five state championships.

He will assume his role on Monday, January 4.

Sherman was the North Atlantic Conference's Lacrosse Coach of the Year in 2014. He will continue to serve as the football team's offensive line coach with additional departmental duties. He led

the Mariners to four-straight NAC semifinal appearances, including in 2015 after going 6-2 in the NAC.

Mayo in strong start at EKU

Former Messalonskee High School of Oakland basketball standout Nick Mayo is enjoying a strong start to his college career at Eastern Kentucky University.

Mayo averaged 10.0 points-per-game and 3.8 rebounds last week and was named the Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Week.

Mayo poured in a career-high 20 points and grabbed five rebounds in EKU's win over South Carolina State on Saturday. He also contributed 12 points and five rebounds at University of North Carolina Wilmington on Monday, and eight points, four boards, a block and a steal in the win over Longwood on Sunday.

Mayo went a perfect 7-of-7 from the free throw line over the week.

College Basketball	
Women	
MAINE vs. CENTRAL CONNECTICUT	
Time, site: Wednesday, noon; Cross Insurance Center, Bangor	
Records: Maine 2-2, Central Connecticut 1-3	
Series, last meeting: Maine leads 13-5, UMaine 72-58 on 12/3/14	
Key players: Maine — 5-8 G Sigi Koizar (15.8 points per game, 4.3 rebounds per game, 6.0 assists per game, 2.5 steals per game), 5-8 G Sophie Weckstrom (10.3 ppg, 2.6 apg), 6-2 F Mikaela Gustafsson (9.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg), 5-10 F Liz Wood (9.0 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 4.0 apg, 3.3 spg), 5-10 G Chantel Charles (7.0 ppg), 5-11 F Bella Swan (6.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg); CCSU — 5-4 G Aleah Epps (10.5 ppg, 2.3 apg), 5-7 G Camden Musgrave (9.5 ppg), 5-9 G Kayla Miller (8.0 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.3 spg), 5-9 G Tejahne Malone (7.0 ppg, 7.3 rpg), 5-6 G Kiana Patterson (6.8 ppg)	
Game notes: The Black Bears, who just returned from a trip to Minnesota and North Dakota, make their regular-season home debut against the Blue Devils. The game kicks off a doubleheader with the men's team. UMaine, which beat North Dakota State 82-51 on Sunday, begins a stretch of five games in seven days, including three contests Nov. 27-29 at the Gulf Coast Showcase in Florida. UMaine looks for a strong defensive effort against a guard-oriented CCSU squad that has averaged only 56.5 ppg. Koizar has been the catalyst, but the Bears have exhibited good balance. The Blue Devils may present some quickness matchup issues, but UMaine should have the edge in the paint with Wood, Gustafsson and Swan.	
Men	
MAINE vs. LONGWOOD	
Time, site: Wednesday, 2:15 p.m.; Cross Insurance Center, Bangor	
Records: Maine 0-3, Longwood 2-3	
Series, last meeting: 1st meeting	
Key players: Maine — 6-6 F Issac Vann (16.3 ppg, 8.3 rpg), 6-0 G Kevin Little (10.3 ppg, 2.7 apg), 6-7 F Devine Eke (9.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.7 spg), 6-8 F Till Gloger (8.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg), 5-11 G Aaron Calixte (8.0 ppg), 6-6 G/F Garett Beal (5.3 ppg, 2.3 rpg); Longwood — 6-3 G Kanayo Obi-Rapu (17.8 ppg, 2.0 apg), 6-8 F/C Lotanna Nwogbo (15.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.2 blocks per game), 6-6 F Kharris Allen (12.0 ppg, 8.8 rpg), 5-11 G Leron Fisher (11.5 ppg, 5.0 apg), 6-2 G Darrin Allen (10.5 ppg, 3.8 apg, 1.8 spg)	
Game notes: The Black Bears are out to snap a nine-game losing streak dating back to last season as they make their regular-season home debut. UMaine has struggled to establish consistency and the ability to fight through tough stretches, according to coach Bob Walsh. Freshmen Vann and Eke have demonstrated the ability to make significant contributions already for UMaine, which is coming off Saturday's 87-73 loss at Wagner. The Lancers, who play in the Big South Conference, have been prolific on offense, averaging 79.8 ppg behind a quintet of players averaging double figures. UMaine must contest Obi-Rapu and a good group of perimeter shooters while trying to match up with the 255-pound Nwogbo in the paint. Longwood was outgunned 110-97 by Eastern Kentucky on Sunday.	