

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 — 1999-2003 San Francisco 49ers, 2004-05 Philadelphia Eagles, 2006-08 Dallas Cowboys, 2009 Buffalo Bills, 2010 Cincinnati Bengals; one time 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, 2013-16

— 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.

Hawks roll past Celtics 121-97

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

ATLANTA, Georgia — On the same night Atlanta honored one of its best defensive players in franchise history, the Hawks exploded for one of their best offensive efforts of the season.

Forward Paul Millsap led seven Hawks in double figures with 25 points, and point guard Jeff Teague added 16 points and nine assists in a 121-97 win over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

Former Hawks defensive stopper Dikembe Mutombo, an NBA Hall of Famer, had his number 55 jersey retired at halftime. The Celtics could have used the 7-foot-er's shot-blocking prowess.

Atlanta (10-6) scored on the inside and outside, with an efficient attack that helped the Hawks overcome another big night from red-hot Boston guard Avery Bradley.

Bradley scored 25 points to lead the Celtics, and he is averaging 22.4 points in his last five games.

The Hawks took an 81-73 lead into the fourth quarter. Forward Mike Scott converted a three-point play off of nice pass from point guard Dennis Schroder to put the Hawks up 11 with nine minutes to play.

Guard Kyle Korver drained a couple 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Atlanta lead ballooned to 112-88 with three minutes left.

Korver, forward Thabo Sefolosha and Scott each finished with 15 points.

The Celtics (7-7) began the week with NBA's top-ranked defense, but they didn't look like it early against an energetic, hot-shooting Hawks



JASON GETZ | USA TODAY

Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap (left) drives against Boston Celtics center Kelly Olynyk in the first quarter at Philips Arena on Tuesday night. Atlanta won 121-97.

team that pushed the pace from the opening tip.

The Hawks scored a season-high 33 points in the first quarter and shot a sizzling 57.9 percent from the field in the first half. They led by as many as 13, but the Celtics made a move every time the Hawks tried to pull away, mainly thanks to Bradley.

Bradley hit 8 of 12 shots in the first half, including three 3-pointers to keep the Celtics somewhat close. Atlanta led 57-48 at halftime, behind 15 first-half points from Millsap.

After an 8-2 start, the Hawks had dropped four of five games and were looking for answers in the backcourt, where both Teague and key reserve guard Kent Bazemore had missed time with injuries. Guard Tim Hardaway Jr., an offseason acquisition, saw his first action of the regular season Tuesday. Hardaway finished with three points in 12

minutes.

The Celtics, who, like the Hawks, have been up-and-down through the first month of the season, dropped their second straight game and third in their last four. Rookie guard R.J. Hunter, a local product who starred at Georgia State, scored 10 points.

Point guard Isaiah Thomas added 15 points, and forward David Lee came off the bench for 10 points and six rebounds for the Celtics.

NOTES: Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said he apologized to referee Ben Taylor for making contact with him while protesting a noncall Saturday in a loss to Cleveland. Budenholzer was fined \$25,000, but not suspended by the NBA, a punishment that drew criticism from the referees' union. ... Boston guard Marcus Smart is sidelined for at least two weeks with a lower leg injury. Smart already missed three games earlier in the

season with a sprained big toe. ... Only the Milwaukee Bucks had a worse rebounding differential than the Hawks (-5.7) entering Tuesday's games. ... The Celtics won the first of four meetings of the season, beating the Hawks 106-93 on Nov. 13. ... The Hawks retired the jersey of Hall of Fame center Dikembe Mutombo during a ceremony at halftime.

Pacers 123, Wizards 106
WASHINGTON — Forward Paul George scored a season-high 40 points as the surging Indiana Pacers sank a franchise-record 193-pointers in their 123-106 win over the Washington Wizards Tuesday night.

Forward C.J. Miles established a career high with 32 points and combined with George to dominate from distance. Indiana shot 73.1 percent (19 of 26) from beyond the arc, with their starting forwards doing the damage.

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.

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.

Carylann 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 linemen 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 Teahne 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 Khris Lane (12.0 ppg, 8.8 rpg), 5-11 G Leron Fisher (11.5 ppg, 5.0 apg), 6-2 G Darrion 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 Racers, 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.