

Palm Beach County Sports Commission Presents

LOU GROZA

COLLEGIATE PLACE-KICKER AWARD

College Football's Top Kicking Award



LOU GROZA NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLACE KICKER AWARD

"STARS OF THE WEEK"

9/27/2010



Dakota Warren

UTEP



Collin Wagner

Penn State



Nate Whitaker

Stanford

College football's top kicking award, the Lou Groza Collegiate Place Kicker Award sponsored by the Palm Beach County Sports Commission recognizes three of the top kickers each week from FBS division (Div 1A) teams as the "Stars of the Week".

Dakota Warren booted two field goals from beyond 50 yards to keep UTEP close to the Memphis Tigers, and chipped in a third as time expired to give the Miners a 16-13 Conference USA victory. The sophomore from Austin, Texas opened UTEP's scoring with a 57 yard field goal, tied the game with a 50-yarder with just over five minutes to play, and won it from 18 yards out. Warren is the first Miner to make two field goals from 50 yards or more since 1988, and the first UTEP kicker to convert three field goals in a game since 2007 Lou Groza Award finalist Jose Martinez.

Collin Wagner is positioning himself as a strong contender for the Groza with his second “Star of the Week” selection of the season. The Penn State senior tied the school record with five field goals in Saturday’s 22-13 defeat of Temple at State College, Pa. The State College native connected from 21, 32, 32, 42 and 45 yards to improve his season totals to 10 of 12 field goals tries. That mark ties him for the national lead in field goals made. His 38 points lead the 3-1 Nittany Lions in scoring.

It was a successful homecoming of sorts for Stanford senior Nate Whitaker, kicking a career-high five field goals in the Cardinal’s 37-14 defeat of Notre Dame at South Bend last Saturday. Whitaker, a former Irish walk-on who transferred to Stanford in 2008, connected from 24, 29, 33, 36 and 41 yards. A member of the Groza pre-season watch list, the San Diego native is a perfect 8-for-8 on the year and has made 13 straight field goals dating back to last season.

The Groza Award finalists will be honored at the 19th Annual Lou Groza Awards Banquet on Tuesday December 7th at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. For more information on the Groza Award and the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, visit www.palmbeachsports.com.

The presentation of the Lou Groza Place-Kicker Award will be featured on *The Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards* live on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. ET on ESPN. The show, hosted by ESPN’s Chris Fowler, Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit will feature the live presentation of nine player awards, along with the recipients of Disney’s Spirit Award; The Home Depot Coach of the Year Award, the NCFAA (National College Football Awards Association) Contributions to College Football Award; and student-athletes selected to the Walter Camp All-America Team. Fans can visit the show’s dedicated Web site at www.espncollegefootballawards.com to find the latest college football awards news, including show details, previous winners, fan voting, a photo gallery and video highlights.