



## LOU GROZA NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLACE KICKER AWARD

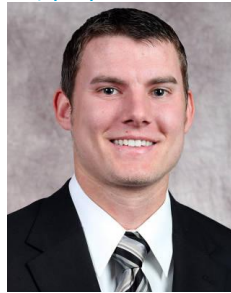
### “STARS OF THE WEEK”

9/6/2011



**Maikon Bonani**

South Florida



**Brett Maher**

Nebraska



**Quinn Sharp**

Oklahoma State

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 teams as the “Stars of the Week”.

University of South Florida redshirt junior Maikon Bonani tied his career-long with a 49 yard kick and made two more field goals in the Bulls' stunning 23-20 defeat of Notre Dame at South Bend on Saturday. The Lake Wales, Fla. native also hit on field goals of 17 and 36 yards and converted the extra points on his team's two touchdowns. Bonani narrowly missed a 52-yarder in the game which saw a 2 hour,10 minute weather delay, the first in history at Notre Dame. His 81.0 field goal percentage in 2010, first on the USF single-season record list, landed him on the Groza Award pre-season watch list.

Nebraska junior kicker Brett Maher adds a Groza Award Star of the Week selection to the two other honors he earned for his performance in the Cornhusker's 40-7 defeat of Chattanooga. Maher went 4-for-4 on field goals, including kicks of 50 and 48 yards,

and 4-for-4 on extra points and was named the Big Ten Special Teams Co-Player of the Week and earned the College Football Performance Award as National Place Kicker of the Week. The Kearney, Neb. native added field goals of 34 and 21 yards. Maher also handles kick-off and punting duties for the Huskers.

Quinn Sharp jumped out to the national lead in kick scoring with a 19-point performance in Oklahoma State's 61-34 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette in Stillwater on Saturday. The junior from Mansfield, Texas connected on field goals of 46, 27, 23 and 22 yards and added 7 PAT's. This former Ray Guy Award candidate as a punter is adding place kicking and kickoffs to his duties this season.

The Lou Groza Award will be presented as part of the ESPN College Football Awards Show in Orlando, Florida on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>. The three finalists will be feted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Lou Groza Awards Banquet on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.palmbeachsports.com).

### **National College Football Awards Association**

The Lou Groza Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA). The NCFAA was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game's predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients. For more information, visit the association's official website, [ncfaa.org](http://ncfaa.org).

### **About the Palm Beach County Sports Commission**

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is a private, not-for-profit organization contracted by Palm Beach County to promote and market the County as a sports and sports tourism destination. The Commission brings sporting events and activities to the County, enhances economic impact, stimulates bed tax revenues (primarily in the off-season), and maximizes utilization of County facilities. The Commission offers a full range of event service support, corporate partnerships, sponsorships and a local membership program that support its goals. Local, regional, national and international marketing efforts are ongoing by the Commission with sports organizations and event owners. The Commission also produces sports-related programs for the residents of Palm Beach County including the annual Lou Groza Awards program, the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame, the Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches and awards the annual Sam Budnyk Student-Athlete Scholarship. For more information on the Palm Beach County Sports Commission go to [www.palmbeachsports.com](http://www.palmbeachsports.com).