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TEXAS QB COLT McCOY WINS 2009 JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD

BALTIMORE, MD (12/3/09) --- University of Texas quarterback Colt McCoy has been named the 2009 winner of the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award. The award is presented annually to the nation's top senior college quarterback by the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc. and Transamerica (www.transamerica.com), a leading provider of innovative business and personal financial services.

McCoy – who directed the third-ranked Texas Longhorns to their first 12-0 regular season record in school history after their Thanksgiving Day victory over rival Texas A&M – is the NCAA's all-time winningest quarterback with 44 victories. He is also the only quarterback in NCAA history to lead his team to four 10-win seasons.

McCoy ranks sixth on the NCAA all-time list with 14,651 yards of total offense. He has 13,060 career passing yards (6th in NCAA history), 112 career passing touchdowns (7th), a 156.7 passer rating, and a 70.6 career completion percentage – tops in NCAA history.

“Like Johnny Unitas, Colt McCoy has been a leader on the playing field and off, carrying the ideals of football forward into his relations with his community and his fellow man,” says John Unitas, Jr., President of the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc.

“The winner of the Golden Arm Award is recognized not only for his athletic accomplishments, but also for his character, citizenship, scholastic achievement, and leadership qualities,” Unitas continues. “With respect to each of these measures, Colt McCoy is truly outstanding and a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award.”

In winning the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, McCoy joins an outstanding group of previous winners, including Matt Ryan (Boston College, 2007), who is now with the Atlanta Falcons; Brady Quinn (Notre Dame, 2006), now with the Cleveland Browns; the Arizona Cardinals' Matt Leinart (USC, 2005), Eli Manning (Ole Miss, 2003) of the New York Giants; the Cincinnati Bengals' Carson Palmer (USC, 2002); and the Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning (Tennessee, 1997).

“When you consider how many great college QBs have won the Golden Arm Award and have gone on to play in the NFL, it is clear that this award has become a significant barometer for future success in the professional ranks,” says Unitas.

The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award bears the name of the man many refer to as the finest quarterback to ever play the game of football. Johnny Unitas played for the Baltimore Colts from 1956-1972. When he retired in 1973 after one year with San Diego, he left behind him records for: most pass attempts (5,186); most completions (2,830); most total yards (40,239); most touchdowns (290); most 300-yard games (26); and most consecutive games throwing touchdown passes (47). He also led the Colts to one Super Bowl Crown, three NFL championships, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1979.

In addition to honoring a player with the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships to underprivileged and deserving scholar-athletes from local area high schools in both Maryland and Kentucky.

“Despite my Dad’s outstanding accomplishments, he never forgot his humble beginnings, and this won him a permanent place in the hearts of all who ever knew him,” notes Unitas. “Giving life to his commitment to ‘give back,’ the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Foundation was established to promote football on all levels by providing financial aid to deserving young athletes.”

Colt McCoy will receive the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award at a ceremony to be held in Baltimore next Friday, December 11, from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Tremont Grand Plaza (225 North Charles Street in Downtown Baltimore). Presenters at the awards ceremony will include NFL Hall of Famers Bart Starr and Raymond Berry, along with many other former Baltimore Colts teammates of Johnny Unitas.

The award ceremony is by invitation only. Members of the media, however, are invited to attend both the award presentation and a tour of Sports Legends at Camden Yards attended by the Golden Arm Award winner, to be held beginning at noon on Friday.

Comcast Digital TV customers in select markets will have exclusive access to the 2009 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Ceremony beginning later this month when Comcast will make a special video production of the ceremony available at no additional cost through its signature On Demand service. Comcast On Demand offers more than 17,000 entertainment programs each month, including more than 2,600 HD choices, available for Comcast Digital TV customers to watch any time, with the ability to pause, fast-forward and rewind.

Sponsors of the Golden Arm Award include Baltimore’s Tremonts, Black & Decker, Century Engineering, Comcast Cable, Dunbar Armored, First Mariner Bank, Freedom Services, MyAdBox, R2i.ntegrated, Sports Legends Museum, Tray, Union Memorial Sports Medicine, Weiss PR Associates, Inc., and Wilson.

For more information, visit www.goldenarmfoundation.com.