



NEWS RELEASE

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FIVE FINALISTS FOR 2014 RARE DISEASE CHAMPION AWARD *Public online voting is live to determine 2014 winner*

Harrisburg, Pa. (January 6, 2014) – Uplifting Athletes has named the five finalists for the 2014 Rare Disease Champion Award.

Florida State head coach Jimbo Fisher, Texas quarterback Case McCoy, Stony Brook head coach Chuck Priore, Utah linebacker Trevor Reilly and Nebraska fullback C.J. Zimmerer comprise the five nominees recognized as 2014 finalists.

To read about each finalist's personal story and connection to the rare disease community, and learn how to vote daily for a finalist to determine this year's champion, visit www.upliftingathletes.org.

This award is presented annually to a leader in the world of college football who has realized his or her potential to make a positive and lasting impact on the rare disease community. Currently, more than 30 million Americans are affected by rare diseases.

This sixth winner of the Uplifting Athletes Rare Disease Champion Award will be determined by an online vote beginning Monday, January 6 and ending January 31 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

The winner will be presented the 2014 Rare Disease Champion Trophy at the Maxwell Club Awards Gala on March 14, 2014 at Revel Casino in Atlantic City.

Previous winners of the award include American Football Coaches Association Executive Director Grant Teaff (2009); Dickinson College quarterback Ian Mitchell (2010); Princeton running back Jordan Culbreath (2011); Nebraska running back Rex Burkhead (2012) and Penn State offensive lineman Eric Shrive (2013).

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Uplifting Athletes is a full service national nonprofit organization aligning college football with rare diseases and raising them as a national priority through research, outreach, education and advocacy. What makes Uplifting Athletes unique is that our university chapters are run by current football student-athletes, providing them with an opportunity to gain management and leadership skills while learning how to leverage their assets and abilities to make a positive and lasting impact. Each chapter adopts one out of approximately 7,000 rare diseases (such as ALS, Aplastic Anemia, CMT, cystic fibrosis, Ehlers-Danlos, Ewing's Sarcoma, Kidney Cancer, Leukemia, MS, Neimann Pick Type-C, Neuroblastoma, pancreatic cancer, etc.). For more information about Uplifting Athletes, visit www.upliftingathletes.org.