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As three of college football's top defensive backs prepare to learn Thursday evening who among them will take home the coveted Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, award sponsor Paycom Software, Inc. announced that former University of Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops ...

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“We are proud to be the headline sponsor of the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, and are grateful Bob Stoops agreed to present this year's award,” said Paycom's founder and CEO, Chad Richison. “Stoops developed a reputation as a defensive genius, and the way he's managed himself and his teams aligns with the core values shared by Paycom and the Jim Thorpe Association. Bob knows the talent and skills required to play defensive back at an elite level from his days playing college football as a Hawkeye. The three finalists will remember this day for the rest of their lives and the winner will remember receiving this award from a fellow defensive back who developed a reputation as a fearless competitor.”

A four-year starter and 1982 All-Big Ten selection as a defensive back at Iowa, Stoops holds the record for most wins as a head coach at the University of Oklahoma, where he led the program to more than three times as many championships (10) as the next closest school in the Big 12 before retiring at the end of the 2016-17 season. During his 18-year career at OU, Stoops' program produced two Thorpe Award winners in Derrick Strait (2003) and Roy Williams (2001).

“This is a great honor for me to present the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award to the best defensive back in America,” said Stoops. “I am also pleased this award is named after one of Oklahoma's greatest athletes, Jim Thorpe, and is sponsored by one of the state's and nation's fastest-growing and innovative companies in Paycom. Being a former defensive back myself, it is a privilege to present this year's Thorpe winner.”

Now in its 31st year, the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award is presented annually to the outstanding defensive back in college football and is the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame's (OSHO) most distinguished national tribute.

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