



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Kenny Tate of Maryland Named the Jim Thorpe Defensive Back of the Week

CLEVELAND, Ohio-After making several key plays in Maryland's win over Navy, Junior Free Safety Kenny Tate has been named as the inaugural Jim Thorpe Award Defensive Back of the week.

Tate had a career-high 12 tackles including a stop on Navy Quarterback Ricky Dobbs on fourth-and-goal from the one with just 34 seconds left in the game that allowed the Terrapins to hold on for a 17-14 victory.



Tate also forced a pair of fumbles including one in the third quarter when he knocked the ball free from Dobbs on a first-and goal play from the 4-yard line.

Tate and Maryland will be in action this weekend as they take on Morgan St.

### Honorable Mention Players for Week One:

**Brian Blechen, Utah**-In his first game, Blechen recorded five tackles and intercepted Pittsburgh QB Tino Sunseri on the first play of overtime that keyed the 27-24 win.

**Janoris Jenkins, Florida**-Jenkins had five tackles, three pass breakups and scored a touchdown on a 67-yard interception return in Florida's 34-12 win over Miami, Ohio.

**Patrick Peterson, LSU**-Peterson made five tackles in the 30-24 win over North Carolina but made most of his impact on special teams with 257 return yards including a 87-yard punt return touchdown.

**Chase Minnifield, Virginia**-Minnifield had 7 tackles and intercepted a Richmond pass in the end zone that he returned 65 yards to set up a Virginia scoring drive in the Cavaliers 34-13 victory.

## **About the Jim Thorpe Award:**

The Jim Thorpe Award is one of college football's most sought after and prestigious awards. It is named after history's greatest all-around athlete, a man who excelled as a running back, passer and kicker on offense, but also was an awesome defensive back. Recognized in the Pro Football Hall of Fame simply as "The Legend", Thorpe also played professional baseball and won Olympic gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon.

The candidates for the award are selected by a "screening committee" of Jim Thorpe Association members who follow several players throughout the season, watching games and researching information sources to grade Thorpe Award candidates on the basis of performance on the field, athletic ability and character. The committee then narrows the field three finalists and the names of these finalists are submitted to a national panel of about 50 sports writers, sportscasters, coaches and former players who vote to determine the winner. The three finalists are invited to the ESPN College Football Awards Show, and the winner is announced during the show.

Each week, Phil Steele will be overlooking the candidates issued by the school, the conference and distinguished committee members. After including his own personal input, the winner will be announced every Thursday at [jimthorpeassoc.org](http://jimthorpeassoc.org) and [PhilSteele.com](http://PhilSteele.com).