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Husker Maher Up For Two Awards

For senior Brett Maher, Wednesday was his day in the preseason spotlight, as he was named to the preseason watch lists for the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award and the Ray Guy Award.

Maher is one of only two kicking specialists in college football on both the Groza and Guy Award watch lists, joining Oklahoma State's Quinn Sharp.

In 2011, Maher became the first Big Ten specialist to be named the all-conference place-kicker and punter in the same year since 2001, winning both the Bakken-Andersen Big Ten Kicker-of-the-Year and the Eddleman-Fields Big Ten Punter-of-the-Year awards.

On the year, Maher connected on 19-of-23 field goals, including 16-of-17 from inside 50-yards. His 19 field goals ranked tied for second in school history, trailing only All-American Alex Henery's mark of 24 set in 2009. Maher had three field goals of 50 or more yards, including a 51-yarder at Michigan. He was also 43-of-44 on PAT attempts, as he totaled 100 points on the season.

As a punter, he was 10th nationally and led the Big Ten with an average of 44.5 yards per kick. He had 20 kicks of at least 50 yards and pinned opponents inside the 20-yard line on 24 of his 59 punts.

Both the Ray Guy and Groza awards will be presented at the Home Depot ESPNU College Football Award Show on Dec. 6.