

# THE BUTKUS<sup>®</sup> AWARD



## COLLEGIATE RECIPIENTS

1985 Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma  
 1986 Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma  
 1987 Paul McGowan, Florida State  
 1988 Derrick Thomas, Alabama  
 1989 Percy Snow, Michigan State  
 1990 Alfred Williams, Colorado  
 1991 Erick Anderson, Michigan  
 1992 Marvin Jones, Florida State  
 1993 Trev Alberts, Nebraska  
 1994 Dana Howard, Illinois  
 1995 Kevin Hardy, Illinois  
 1996 Matt Russell, Colorado  
 1997 Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State  
 1998 Chris Claiborne, USC  
 1999 LaVar Arrington, Penn State  
 2000 Dan Morgan, Miami (Fla.)  
 2001 Rocky Calmus, Oklahoma  
 2002 E.J. Henderson, Maryland  
 2003 Teddy Lehman, Oklahoma  
 2004 Derrick Johnson, Texas  
 2005 Paul Posluszny, Penn State  
 2006 Patrick Willis, Ole Miss  
 2007 James Laurinaitis, Ohio State  
 2008 Aaron Curry, Wake Forest  
 2009 Rolando McClain, Alabama  
 2010 Von Miller, Texas A&M  
 2011 Luke Kuechly, Boston College  
 2012 Manti Te'o, Notre Dame  
 2013 C.J. Mosley, Alabama  
 2014 Eric Kendricks, UCLA  
 2015 Jaylon Smith, Notre Dame  
 2016 Reuben Foster, Alabama  
 2017 Roquan Smith, Georgia  
 2018 Devin White, LSU  
 2019 Isaiah Simmons, Clemson  
 2020 Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, Notre Dame  
 2021 Nakobe Dean, Georgia

## 2022-23 KEY DATES

July 26..... Preseason Watch List  
 Oct. 31..... Semifinalists announced  
 Nov. 21..... Finalists announced  
 Dec. 7..... Winner announced  
 Jan. 21..... Awards Event  
 Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa  
 Rancho Mirage, Calif.



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## BUTKUS AWARD<sup>®</sup> 38th SEASON WATCH LIST ANNOUNCED

*Search begins today for nation's top linebacker; celebration event planned at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa*

CHICAGO – The Butkus Award<sup>®</sup> honoring the nation's best linebackers kicked off its 38th annual selection process today by announcing its collegiate preseason watch list.

The watch list features 51 linebackers, mirroring the legendary “51” pro jersey associated with the award's namesake, Dick Butkus, who was recognized by NFL Films as the best defensive player in football history. The Butkus Award is focused on recognizing linebackers who consistently play off the ball on their feet in a two-point stance in traditional form.

The collegiate Butkus Award watch list includes candidates from 43 schools, including three returning semifinalists: Iowa's Jack Campbell, Texas' DeMarvion Overshown and Oregon's Noah Sewell. The SEC leads all conferences with 12 representatives, followed by the Pac-12 with nine. Teammates from seven schools – Alabama, BYU, Cincinnati, Iowa, N.C. State, Oregon, and UCLA – have been named to the list and all 10 Division I FBS conferences are represented.

The award semifinalists are expected to be named Oct. 31 with finalists to follow Nov. 21. The winner will be named on or before Dec. 7. Appearing on the watch list is not a requirement to win the award.

“I am always excited about seeing our great watch list players on the field,” said Butkus, the College and Pro Football Hall of Famer. “When an outstanding player receives the Butkus Award he will know two things: First, he is recognized as the best of the best linebackers in America; Second, and in the long run most important, he will understand this recognition brings a responsibility of giving back.”

All 2022 Butkus Award winners will be honored at a televised event on Jan. 21, 2023, at the Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa in Rancho Mirage, California. CBS Sports Network aired the event last season, featuring Butkus and numerous noted NFL Alumni. To watch the show online via YouTube, [click here](#).

Founded in 1985, the Butkus Award honors linebackers at three levels while supporting causes important to the Butkus family. Causes include Butkus Takes Heart<sup>™</sup> initiative encouraging early cardiovascular screening among adults, and the I Play Clean<sup>®</sup> initiative encouraging athletes to train naturally without performance-enhancing drugs. A 51-member expert panel of coaches, scouts, and journalists guides the selection process. Past winners of the collegiate award include such greats as Patrick Willis, Von Miller, Luke Kuechly, Devin White, and many more.

Nakobe Dean of national champion Georgia was the 2021 recipient and is among just three players to win both the high school and collegiate Butkus Awards. The Horn Lake, Mississippi, product, now with the Philadelphia Eagles, joined Jaylon Smith and Manti Te'o in that distinction.

The watch list for the 2022 Butkus Award for high school players will be released in August. The Butkus Foundation has presented the high school and professional awards since 2008.

The complete 51-man Butkus Award preseason collegiate watch list follows:



## 2022 BUTKUS AWARD® COLLEGIATE PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Darren Anders ..... Bowling Green  
 Jeremy Banks ..... Tennessee  
 Micah Baskerville ..... LSU  
 Seth Benson ..... Iowa  
 JD Bertrand ..... Notre Dame  
 Tatum Bethune ..... Florida State  
 Troy Brown ..... Ole Miss  
 Ben Bywater ..... BYU  
**Jack Campbell** ..... **Iowa**  
 Levani Damuni ..... Stanford  
 KD Davis ..... North Texas  
 Mohamoud Diabate ..... Utah  
 Jamon Dumas-Johnson ..... Georgia  
*Justin Flowe* ..... *Oregon*  
 Sherrod Greene ..... South Carolina  
 Kyle Harmon ..... San Jose State  
 Calvin Hart Jr. .... Illinois  
 Daiyan Henley ..... Washington State  
 Nick Jackson ..... Virginia  
 Jestin Jacobs ..... Iowa  
 Carl Jones Jr. .... UCLA  
 Mikel Jones ..... Syracuse  
 Tyrice Knight ..... UTEP  
 Carlton Martial ..... Troy  
 Ventrell Miller ..... Florida  
 Jackson Mitchell ..... UConn

Jaylen Moody ..... Alabama  
 Isaiah Moore ..... N.C. State  
 Darius Muasau ..... UCLA  
 Donovan Mutin ..... Houston  
 Anfernee Orji ..... Vanderbilt  
**DeMarvion Overshown** ..... **Texas**  
 Deshawn Pace ..... Cincinnati  
 Ivan Pace ..... Cincinnati  
 Owen Pappoe ..... Auburn  
 James Patterson ..... Buffalo  
 Bumper Pool ..... Arkansas  
 Luke Reimer ..... Nebraska  
 Merlin Robertson ..... Arizona State  
**Noah Sewell** ..... **Oregon**  
 Trenton Simpson ..... Clemson  
 Isaac Slade-Matautia ..... SMU  
 Mariano Sori-Marin ..... Minnesota  
 DeAndre Square ..... Kentucky  
 Drake Thomas ..... N.C. State  
 Henry To'o To'o ..... Alabama  
 David Ugwoegbu ..... Oklahoma  
 Edefuan Ulofoshio ..... Washington  
 Payton Wilgar ..... BYU  
 Dorian Williams ..... Tulane  
 Dee Winters ..... TCU

By conference: SEC 12, Pac-12 9, ACC 6, Big Ten 6, American Athletic 5, Independents 4, Big 12 3, Conference USA 2, Mid-American 2, Mountain West 1, Sun Belt 1.

**Boldface** denotes returning semifinalists; No finalists are returning from the 2021 season  
*Justin Flowe was the 2019 winner of the high school Butkus Award*

The Butkus Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCAA), which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. The NCAA's 25 awards have honored more than 800 recipients since 1935. Visit NCAA.org for more information.

The members of the NCAA are unveiling preseason watch lists over a two-week period. Sixteen of the association's 25 awards are presenting their preseason watch list during this time as the NCAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the remaining 2022 preseason watch list calendar:

- Tues., July 26: Outland Trophy/Bronko Nagurski Trophy
- Wed., July 27: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award
- Thurs., July 28: Hornung Award/Wuerffel Trophy
- Fri., July 29: Walter Camp Award
- Mon., Aug. 1: Bednarik Award

