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### **INDIANA PREP LINEBACKER BOWEN WINS HIGH SCHOOL BUTKUS AWARD**

*Two-way, two sport star led Andean H.S. to Class 2A finals and is headed for Notre Dame*

**CHICAGO – Drayk Bowen**, a senior at Andean High School in Merrillville, Indiana, has received the **2022 Butkus Award®**, honoring the nation’s top prep linebacker. The award was formally presented during a surprise appearance by linebacker legend Dick Butkus and his son Matt.

The 6-2, 230-pound two-way standout has been a four-year starter and a two-time team captain for the Andean 59ers, who finished the season 10-4 as the Indiana Class 2A state runner-up. During his senior season, Bowen recorded 144 tackles, 19 tackles for loss, five sacks and two interceptions, finishing his career with 379 tackles. This season, he also rushed for 1,784 yards and 26 touchdowns on 242 carries and caught 10 passes for 228 yards and three touchdowns. The football and baseball recruit has committed to Notre Dame, where he plans to continue his athletic career in both sports.

The Butkus selection committee said: “Drayk Bowen is an explosive, drive-thru striker with knockback lower-body power and outstanding block destruction. He displayed exceptional instincts hitting holes as a linebacker and running back and erases angles in the open field. He’s an exceptional leader and excels equally as well in the classroom and community. In a class filled with many exceptional linebackers, he stood out as the best of the best.”



“Drayk is the complete embodiment of our mission at Andean,” athletic director Mike Schultz said. “He is truly an elite STUDENT-athlete. He has set the tone for all student-athletes at our school, in Northwest Indiana, and in the state for what it takes to improve every day and exceed expectations. Everyone here is thankful for the standard Drayk upheld at Andean and look forward to seeing him continue to impress at the next level and beyond.”

Other finalists included: Tackett Curtis, Many, La. (Many); Anthony Hill, Denton, Texas (Ryan); Ben Kueter, Iowa City, Iowa (Iowa City); and Raylen Wilson, Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln).

The Butkus Award® selection committee focuses on qualities that defined Butkus’ career: toughness, on-field leadership, competitiveness, football character and linebacking skills.

The 2021 High School Butkus Award winner was Shawn Murphy of Unity Reed High School, Manassas, Va. (now Alabama). Meanwhile, the 2021 collegiate Butkus Award was presented to Nakobe Dean of Georgia. Micah Parsons won the 2021 pro trophy.

The 2022 collegiate winner will be presented later this week and 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, Calif. A limited number of ticket packages are available through the Butkus Foundation.

Founded in 1985, the Butkus Award honors linebackers at three levels while supporting causes important to the Butkus family. Causes include Butkus Takes Heart™ initiative encouraging early cardiovascular screening among adults, and the I Play Clean® initiative encouraging athletes to train naturally without performance-enhancing drugs. A 51-member expert panel of coaches, scouts and journalists guides the selection process. The Butkus Foundation has presented the high school and professional awards since 2008. The collegiate award is now in its 38th season.



## 2022 BUTKUS AWARD® HIGH SCHOOL PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Leonard Ah You ..... Kahuka, Hawaii (Kahuka)  
 Tausili Akana ..... Lehi, Utah (Skyridge)  
 C.J. Allen.....Barnesville, Ga. (Lamar County)  
 Jamal Anderson ..... Hoschton, Ga. (Mill Creek)  
 Jaiden Ausberry .. Baton Rouge, La. (University Laboratory)  
 Drayk Bowen .....Merrillville, Ind. (Andrean)  
 Troy Bowles..... Tampa, Fla. (Jesuit)  
 Christian Brathwaite.....Cypress, Texas (Cypress Ranch)  
 Semaj Bridgeman.....Warminster, Pa. (Archbishop Wood)  
 Jayvant Brown.... Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas)  
 Malik Bryant ..... Orlando, Fla. (Jones)  
 Lewis Carter ..... Tampa, Fla. (Tampa Catholic)  
 Trevor Carter ..... Ironton, Ohio (Ironton)  
 Stanquan Clark..... Miami, Fla. (Miami Central)  
 Dee Crayton ..... Alpharetta, Ga. (Denmark)  
 Justin Cryer ..... Brookshire, Texas (Royal)  
 Tackett Curtis..... Many, La. (Many)  
 Tre Edwards..... Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic)  
 Palaie Faoa..... Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)  
 Troy Ford ..... Savannah, Ga. (Calvary Day)  
 Grant Godfrey..... Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)  
 Derion Gullette ..... Teague, Texas (Teague)  
 Jordan Hall ..... Bradenton, Fla. (IMG Academy)  
 Jaybron Harvey ..... Durham, N.C. (Southern Durham)  
 Caleb Herring ..... Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Riverdale)  
 Anthony Hill.....Denton, Texas (Ryan)

Tabias Hinton..... Hattiesburg, Miss. (Hattiesburg)  
 Grayson Howard ..... Jacksonville, Fla. (Andrew Jackson)  
 Ty Jones ..... Bay Springs, Miss. (Bay Springs)  
 Matt Kingsbury ..... Chicago, Ill. (St. Rita)  
 Ben Kueter.....Iowa City, Iowa (Iowa City)  
 Liona Lefau..... Kahuka, Hawaii (Kahuka)  
 David Loch..... Elmhurst, Ill. (York)  
 Corey Lucius..... Tampa, Fla. (Tampa Catholic)  
 Wyatt Milkovic ..... Chandler, Ariz. (Basha)  
 Zyian Moultrie-Gooddard ....New Rochelle, N.Y. (Iona Prep)  
 Karmelo Overton ..... Ozark, Ala. (Carroll)  
 Suntarine Perkins ..... Raleigh, Miss. (Raleigh)  
 Phil Picciotti..... Bradenton, Fla. (IMG Academy)  
 Jalen Rambert ..... Greenville, S.C. (Powdersville)  
 Arvell Reese ..... Cleveland, Ohio (Glenville)  
 Ta'Mere Robinson..... Pittsburgh, Pa. (Brashear)  
 Jaden Robinson.....Lake City, Fla. (Columbia)  
 Jalen Smith..... Loganville, Ga. (Grayson)  
 Leviticus Su'a ..... Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic)  
 Jeremiah Telander.....Gainesville, Ga. (Gainesville)  
 Josiah Trotter ..... Philadelphia, Pa. (St. Joseph's Prep)  
 Rico Walker..... Hickory, N.C. (Hickory)  
 Whit Weeks.....Watkinsville, Ga. (Oconee County)  
 Raylen Wilson..... Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)  
 Preston Zinter..... Lawrence, Mass. (Central Catholic)

**By state (51):** Florida 11, Georgia 8, Texas 4, Mississippi 3, Pennsylvania 3, California 2, Hawaii 2, Illinois 2, Louisiana 2, North Carolina 2, Ohio 2, Alabama 1, Arizona 1, Indiana 1, Iowa 1, Massachusetts 1, Nevada 1, New York 1, South Carolina 1, Tennessee 1, Utah 1.

## 2022 BUTKUS AWARD® HIGH SCHOOL SEMIFINALISTS

C.J. Allen.....Barnesville, Ga. (Lamar County)  
 Jamal Anderson, ..... Hoschton, Ga. (Mill Creek)  
 Jaiden Ausberry .. Baton Rouge, La. (University Laboratory)  
 Drayk Bowen .....Merrillville, Ind. (Andrean)  
 Troy Bowles..... Tampa, Fla. (Jesuit)  
 Malik Bryant ..... Orlando, Fla. (Jones)  
 Lewis Carter ..... Tampa, Fla. (Catholic)  
 Tackett Curtis..... Many, La. (Many)

Grant Godfrey..... Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)  
 Derion Gullette ..... Marlin, Texas (Marlin)  
 Anthony Hill .....Denton, Texas (Ryan)  
 Ben Kueter.....Iowa City, Iowa (Iowa City)  
 Suntarine Perkins ..... Raleigh, Miss. (Raleigh)  
 Arvell Reese ..... Cleveland, Ohio (Glenville)  
 Raylen Wilson..... Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)

## ALL-TIME BUTKUS AWARD® HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS

2008 Manti Te'o, Punahou.....Honolulu, Hawaii  
 2009 Jordan Hicks, Lakota West .....West Chester, Ohio  
 2010 Tony Steward, Menendez..... St. Augustine, Fla.  
 2011 Noor Davis, Leesburg ..... Leesburg, Fla.  
 2012 Jaylon Smith, Bishop Luers ..... Fort Wayne, Ind.  
 2013 Raekwon McMillan, Liberty County... Hinesville, Ga.  
 2014 Malik Jefferson, Ralph H. Poteet.... Mesquite, Texas

2015 Caleb Kelly, Clovis West .....Clovis, Calif.  
 2016 Dylan Moses, IMG Academy..... Bradenton, Fla.  
 2018 Nakobe Dean, Horn Lake .....Horn Lake, Miss.  
 2017 Solomon Tuliaupupu, Mater Dei.... Claremont, Calif.  
 2019 Justin Flowe, Upland.....Upland, Calif.  
 2020 Prince Kollie, David Crockett.. Jonesborough, Tenn.  
 2021 Shawn Murphy, Unity Reed ..... Manassas, Va.