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Contact: Matt Butkus
MattButkus@DickButkus.com
312-593-6053

2022 BUTKUS AWARD® FINALISTS UNVEILED

Butkus Foundation lauds five linebackers at each level as contenders for 2022 awards

CHICAGO – The Butkus Foundation has named five of the nation’s best collegiate and high school linebackers Butkus Award® finalists for the 2022 season.

The collegiate finalists come from five different schools representing four conferences (American Athletic, Big Ten, Pac-12, and SEC). Five different states are represented among the five high school finalists.

The winner of each award will be named on or before Dec. 7.

“The five finalists embody the toughness, grit, football temperament and playmaking ability that the Butkus Award seeks to recognize. It’s my honor to present our finalists, as chosen by our selection committee,” award namesake Dick Butkus said. “There are many very deserving candidates. These linebackers represent the most exceptional and have very bright futures ahead.”



The 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. The event will again feature namesake Dick Butkus and numerous noted NFL Alumni. Ticket and sponsorship information is available by contacting the Butkus Foundation.

Following are the semifinalist selections:

2022 Collegiate Butkus Award Finalists

Jack Campbell, Iowa
Jamon Dumas-Johnson, Georgia
Daiyan Henley, Washington State
Ivan Pace Jr., Cincinnati
Drew Sanders, Arkansas

2022 High School Butkus Award Finalists

Drayk Bowen, Andean (Merrville, Ind.)
Tackett Curtis, Many (Many, La.)
Anthony Hill, Ryan (Denton, Texas)
Ben Kueter, Iowa City (Iowa City, Iowa)
Raylen Wilson, Lincoln (Tallahassee, Fla.)

The Butkus Award inscription reads: “When a 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 that this recognition brings a responsibility to serve others by giving back. – Dick Butkus.”

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.



ALL-TIME BUTKUS AWARD® COLLEGIATE RECIPIENTS

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

ALL-TIME BUTKUS AWARD® HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS

2008	Manti Te'o, Punahou.....Honolulu, Hawaii	2015	Caleb Kelly, Clovis WestClovis, Calif.
2009	Jordan Hicks, Lakota WestWest Chester, Ohio	2016	Dylan Moses, IMG Academy..... Bradenton, Fla.
2010	Tony Steward, Menendez..... St. Augustine, Fla.	2018	Nakobe Dean, Horn LakeHorn Lake, Miss.
2011	Noor Davis, Leesburg Leesburg, Fla.	2017	Solomon Tuliaupupu, Mater Dei.... Claremont, Calif.
2012	Jaylon Smith, Bishop Luers Fort Wayne, Ind.	2019	Justin Flowe, Upland.....Upland, Calif.
2013	Raekwon McMillan, Liberty County... Hinesville, Ga.	2020	Prince Kollie, David Crockett.. Jonesborough, Tenn.
2014	Malik Jefferson, Ralph H. Poteet.... Mesquite, Texas	2021	Shawn Murphy, Unity Reed Manassas, Va.

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