



Honor the Heroes of the Game, Preserve its History, Promote its Values & Celebrate Excellence EVERYWHERE

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PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

25 STUDENT-ATHLETES TO BE RECOGNIZED AT HIGH SCHOOL
CEREMONIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY; ALL FINALISTS TO BE ON HAND
FOR 2018 ENSHRINEMENT WEEK POWERED BY JOHNSON CONTROLS

CANTON, OHIO – The Pro Football Hall of Fame and the U.S. Army announced the 25 high school student-athlete finalists for the U.S. Army-Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence. The program, now in its sixth year, highlights the achievements of student-athletes across the country.

The Award for Excellence program is open to all sophomore, junior and senior level high school student-athletes in the United States. The honor focuses on great athletic achievement, excellence in academics and community engagement.



“The Pro Football Hall of Fame is proud to partner with the U.S. Army to pay tribute to the fine young men and women who will shape the future of our country.

Congratulations to the 25 finalists in 2018 who exemplify the Hall’s core values of commitment, integrity, courage, respect and excellence,” commented George Veras, Pro Football Hall of Fame chief operating officer and executive producer.

“The Army is proud to honor this group of outstanding student-athletes, with the Pro Football Hall of Fame, as the 2018 Award for Excellence finalists,” said Elizabeth Wilson, deputy assistant secretary of the Army (marketing). “Like Army Soldiers, these students have shown not only a relentless drive to succeed for themselves, their families and their schools, but also to serve. The Army congratulates the finalists on this distinction, as well as those who have helped them to achieve their goals.”

COMMITMENT • INTEGRITY • COURAGE • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE

The 25 finalists for the Award for Excellence will be recognized during formal ceremonies at their respective high schools this spring. The student-athletes will receive their finalist plaque from a Pro Football Hall of Famer during their individual events.

2018 FINALISTS FOR THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

(Alphabetical Order)

- Justin Arnold, Cinnaminson (N.J.) High School
- Sophie Bernstein, Clayton High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
- Malori Brown, China Spring (Texas) High School
- McKenzie Castro, Gilmer (Texas) High School
- John Cogbill, Fort Campbell (Ky.) High School
- Benjamin Dwyer, Charles W. Baker High School (Baldwinsville, N.Y.)
- Jackson Engel, Palacios (Texas) High School
- Dylan Francis, Colleyville Heritage High School (Colleyville, Texas)
- Phoenix Hanks, Medical Lake (Wash.) High School
- Nicholas Iannone, Benedictine Military School (Savannah, Ga.)
- N’Jhari Jackson, Carrollwood Day School (Tampa, Fla.)
- Lauren Jacobsen, Wisner-Pilger High School (Wisner, Neb.)
- Claire Jones, Abraham Lincoln High School (Council Bluffs, Iowa)
- Nathan LeRoy, Sturgeon Bay (Wisc.) High School
- Sarah Katherine Lewis, Columbia High School (Lake City, Fla.)
- Ryder Meyer, Fairfield (Mont.) High School
- Taylor Morin, Westfield High School (Chantilly, Va.)
- Dalton Mullins, Central High School (Norton, Va.)
- Jessen Pratt, Silo High School (Durant, Ok.)
- Justin Rodgers, A.L. Brown High School (Kannapolis, N.C.)
- Kloe Sander, Pius X High School (Lincoln, Neb.)
- Jacob Smith, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School (Tampa, Fla.)
- Brooke Sudduth, Cascade High School (Wartrace, Tenn.)
- Dominic Velasquez, Western Reserve High School (Berlin Center, Ohio)
- Benjamin Wilhelm, Thomas County Central High School (Thomasville, Ga.)

Each U.S. Army-Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence finalist will be honored in Canton during the 2018 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week Powered by Johnson Controls in August. The celebration will start when the Award for Excellence finalists and their guests attend the Hall of Fame Game between the Baltimore Ravens and Chicago Bears on Thursday, Aug. 2. On Saturday, Aug. 4, the finalists will be hosted at a special luncheon at which the winner will be announced and awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. Later that evening, all 25 finalists will attend the Enshrinement Ceremony for the Class of 2018 – **Bobby Beathard, Robert Brazile, Brian Dawkins, Jerry Kramer, Ray Lewis, Randy Moss, Terrell Owens** and **Brian Urlacher**.

For more information, visit ProFootballHOF.com/Army.

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ABOUT THE ARMY MARKETING AND RESEARCH GROUP (AMRG)

The Army Marketing and Research Group (AMRG) is the U.S. Army's national marketing, marketing research and analysis and accessions analysis organization. The AMRG develops innovative and effective ways to: connect with the American public and make the Army more accessible and understood; increase awareness of both the benefits and value of Army service; and motivate the most qualified candidates to choose the Army as their service of choice.

ABOUT THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Located in Canton, Ohio, the birthplace of the National Football League, the Pro Football Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit institution with the Mission to **Honor the Heroes of the Game, Preserve its History, Promote its Values, & Celebrate Excellence EVERYWHERE.**

Hundreds of thousands of fans from across the globe travel to Canton annually to experience "*The Most Inspiring Place on Earth!*" that chronicles America's most popular sport.

Construction on Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village, an \$899 million development project that includes 10 main components, is under way in Canton to transform the Hall of Fame's campus.

For more information about the Pro Football Hall of Fame, please visit ProFootballHOF.com; @ProFootballHOF on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube. Fans can also tune into the recently launched Hall of Fame channel (ProFootballHOF.com/HOF-Channel) that features nearly 400 hours of live programming each month plus a video vault that includes Enshrinement speeches, exclusive interviews with Hall of Famers and other NFL Legends, original documentaries and feature films, and more.