



PRESS RELEASE

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2018 HENDRICKS AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Chicago, IL –The Ted Hendricks Foundation has revealed the list of finalists for the 2018 Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award. Now in its 17th season, the 2018 preliminary ballot included 36 players. Four of these men have advanced to the final ballot.

2018 Hendricks Award Finalists:



JOSH ALLEN – KENTUCKY

6'5" 260 lbs SR

January of 2018 was a big month in the life of Kentucky's Josh Allen. While his main focus was the birth of his son Wesley, Allen was also considering his football future. The decision to return to UK for his senior season was a good one. PFF College lists Allen as the top-ranked FBS player at the defensive end position. An explosive edge player, he has been featured at defensive end and outside linebacker this season. In nearly 700 snaps played, Allen has registered 84 tackles (52 solo), 14 sacks and 5 forced fumbles, while missing on just 3 tackle attempts.



JAYLON FERGUSON – LOUISIANA TECH

6'5" 262 lbs SR

Ferguson prides himself on being a student of his position, spending countless hours evaluating his opponents on tape. He combines this work ethic with devastating physical abilities. A two-time Conference USA All-Conference performer, Ferguson has upped his production in 2018. His 15 sacks are currently tied for the FBS top spot, and his 23½ tackles for loss rank third. His total of 42½ career sacks is a Louisiana Tech and C-USA record and is just 1½ short of the NCAA record, which was set by the Hendricks Award's first recipient, Terrell Suggs.



CLELIN FERRELL - CLEMSON

6'5" 265 lbs JR

Now a two-time Hendricks Finalist, Ferrell has been a team leader on one of the nation's best "front sevens" the last three seasons. In his last two seasons with the Tigers, he has played more than 1,100 snaps and recorded 97 tackles, while missing on just six tackle attempts. He is the ACC sack leader in 2018 (10½) and was named the conference's Defensive Player of the year.



SUTTON SMITH – NORTHERN ILLINOIS

6'1" 237 lbs JR

The 2018 MAC Player of the Year (and Defensive Player of the Year) is currently tied for the FBS lead with 15 sacks this season. His 24½ tackles for loss rank 2nd. He has forced three fumbles and has returned one for a touchdown. We learned about Smith in 2017 as a Hendricks Award Finalist. He has impressed our selection committee as an undersized edge player, who is lightning quick off the snap and plays with great leverage. He has broken the NIU single-season records for sacks each of the last two seasons.

The final vote for 2018 Hendricks Award will be concluded on December 5th and the winner will be announced December 6th.

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