



**EMBARGO FOR RELEASE
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2025 Comeback Player of the Year Award Watch List Issued

NEW YORK, NY –College Sports Communicators in association with The Associated Press (AP) and Fiesta Sports Foundation, today released a “Watch List” of 75 college football student-athletes from 51 different schools currently under consideration for the **2025 Comeback Player of the Year Award**.

Since 2018, the award has recognized college football student-athletes for overcoming injury, illness, or other circumstances. At the conclusion of each season, in a vote by a panel of college football writers, editors, and sports information directors, three college football student-athletes are honored as **Comeback Player of the Year Award** winners at the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl.

College athletic communications professionals working with football programs are encouraged to nominate deserving candidates at www.Comeback-Player.com. Here’s a look at the **2025 Comeback Player of the Year Preseason Watch List**.

PLAYER	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	POSITION
Seth English	Navy	American	S
Gabe Blair	North Texas	American	OL
Byrum Brown	Univ. South Florida	American	QB
Alex Broome	Boston College	ACC	RB
Bryce Steele	Boston College	ACC	LB

Jaylin Lucas	Florida State	ACC	RB
Caullin Lacy	Louisville	ACC	WR
Carson Beck	Miami	ACC	QB
Mohamed Toure	Miami	ACC	LB
Max Johnson	North Carolina	ACC	QB
Caden Fordham	NC State	ACC	LB
RJ Maryland	SMU	ACC	TE
Will Nixon	Syracuse	ACC	RB
Antonio Clary	Virginia	ACC	S
Tucker Holloway	Virginia Tech	ACC	WR/KR
Kemari Copeland	Virginia Tech	ACC	DL
Cole Rusk	Illinois	Big Ten	TE
Kaden Feagin	Illinois	Big Ten	RB
Drew Evans	Indiana	Big Ten	OG
E.J. Williams	Indiana	Big Ten	WR
Rod Moore	Michigan	Big Ten	S
Armorion Smith	Michigan State	Big Ten	DB
Zuriah Fisher	Penn State	Big Ten	DE
Gary Smith III	UCLA	Big Ten	DL
Hudson Habermehl	UCLA	Big Ten	TE
Anthony Lucas	USC	Big Ten	DE

Quentin Moore	Washington	Big Ten	TE
Zach Durfee	Washington	Big Ten	EDGE
Mason Reiger	Wisconsin	Big Ten	LB
Conner Weigman	Houston	Big12	QB
Corey Platt Jr	Houston	Big12	LB
Caleb Bacon	Iowa State	Big12	LB
Vernon Glover	TCU	Big12	CB
Cole Wisniewski	Texas Tech	Big12	S
Cam Fancher	UCF	Big12	QB
John Walker	UCF	Big12	DT
Levani Damuni	Utah	Big12	LB
Michael Mokofisi	Utah	Big12	OL
Edward Vesterinen	West Virginia	Big12	DL
Jaden Bray	West Virginia	Big12	WR
Treydan Stukes	Arizona	Big12	CB
Christian Bodnar	Liberty	Conference USA	CB
Boubacar Traore	Notre Dame	Independent	DL
Charles Jagusah	Notre Dame	Independent	OL
Gi'Bran Payne	Notre Dame	Independent	RB
CJ Montes	Kent State	MAC	QB
Chip Trayanum	Toldeo	MAC	RB

Sire Gaines	Boise St	Mountain West	RB
Camryn Bracha	Fresno State	Mountain West	S
Josiah Freeman	Fresno State	Mountain West	WR
Dylan Black	Oregon State	Pac 12	LS
Noble Thomas Jr	Oregon State	Pac 12	DB
Kobe Singleton	Oregon State	Pac 12	DB
Deontae Lawson	Alabama	SEC	LB
Keon Sabb	Alabama	SEC	DB
Champ Anthony	Auburn	SEC	DB
Aaron Gates	Florida	SEC	DB
Eugene Wilson III	Florida	SEC	WR
Jamari Lyons	Florida	SEC	DL
Brett Thorson	Georgia	SEC	P
Josaih Hayes	Kentucky	SEC	DL
Tavion Gadson	Kentucky	SEC	DL
Harold Perkins Jr	LSU	SEC	LB
Jacobian Guillory II	LSU	SEC	DL
Whit Weeks	LSU	SEC	LB
Blake Shapen	Mississippi State	SEC	QB
Connor Tollison	Missouri	SEC	OL
Jayden Gibson	Oklahoma	SEC	WR

Christian Clark	Texas	SEC	RB
C.J. Baxter	Texas	SEC	RB
Le'Veon Moss	Texas A&M	SEC	RB
Rueben Owens II	Texas A&M	SEC	RB
Javon Campbell	U. Louisiana-Monroe	Sun Belt	WR
Ja'Den McBurrows	Appalachian State	Sun Belt	DB
Goose Crowder	Troy	Sun Belt	QB

Previous winners of the **Comeback Player of the Year Award** include: **2024: Ike Larsen** (Utah); **Raheim Sanders** (South Carolina); **Tyler Shough** (Louisville); **2023 – Blake Corum** (Michigan); **Jacob Dobbs** (Holy Cross); **Mike Hollins** (Virginia); **2022 - Mohamed Ibrahim** (Minnesota); **Laiatu Latu** (UCLA); **Michael Penix Jr.** (Washington); **2021 – Aidan Hutchinson** (Michigan); **McKenzie Milton** (Florida State); **J.J. Weaver** (Kentucky); **2020 – Jarek Broussard** (Colorado); **Kenneth Horsey** (Kentucky); **Silas Kelly** (Coastal Carolina); **2019 – Jake Luton** (Oregon State); **Drew Wilson** (Georgia Southern); **Octavion Wilson** (Salisbury); **2018 - Antwan Dixon** (Kent State), **Seth Simmer** (Dartmouth); **Antonio Wimbush** (Carson-Newman). For a complete list of past honorees, visit www.Comeback-Player.com.

About College Sports Communicators: College Sports Communicators is the premier membership association for all strategic, creative and digital professionals working in intercollegiate athletics across all levels for colleges, universities and conferences across the United States and Canada. CSC provides year-round leadership, community, professional development/education, recognition and advocacy for its 4,700 members. Founded in 1957 as the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), the organization rebranded in 2022 to position itself as a more inclusive organization for communicators in all types of roles and to lead an industry change where strategic and creative professionals are more aligned. CSC's signature work includes the annual CSC Unite convention each June and the administration of the prestigious Academic All-America® program and Hall of Fame. Since 1952, more than 44,000 of the world's most elite student-athletes have been recognized with Academic All-America status in all sports. To learn more, visit CollegeSportsCommunicators.com.

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