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PRESS RELEASE

The John Mackey Award Announces 2026 Preseason Watchlist

Baltimore, MD — August 5th, 2026

The John Mackey Award is proud to announce its 2026 Preseason Watch List, recognizing the nation's top collegiate tight ends entering the 2026 college football season. The watchlist represents programs from every level of major college football and highlights players who have demonstrated talent, leadership and potential heading into the upcoming season. The John Mackey Award Selection Committee will continue to evaluate candidates throughout the season, with additional players eligible to be added based on their on-field performance.

Presented annually to the most outstanding tight end in college football, the John Mackey Award honors the legacy of Pro Football Hall of Famer John Mackey, whose excellence, leadership, character, and impact on the game continue to inspire generations of student-athletes. Established in 2000 by the Nassau County Sports Commission, the award remains one of college football's premier individual honors for the tight end position.

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>
Benjamin Brahmer	Penn State	Hunter Welcing	Ohio State	Richie Anderson	Texas A&M
Brett Norfleet	Missouri	Jaden Platt	Arkansas	Terik Mulder	Kent State
Brody Foley	Louisville	Jamari Johnson	Oregon	Terrance Carter Jr.	Texas Tech
Bruin Fleischmann	Montana State	Jelani Thurman	UNC	Toby Payne	Marshall
Cade Keith	New Mexico	Jeremiah Hasley	Duke	Trey'Dez Green	LSU
Carter Moses	Kansas	Jeron Askren	Missouri State	Walker Lyons	BYU
Chris Corbo	Georgia Tech	JJ Buchanan	Michigan	Willie Rodriguez	Kentucky
Decker DeGraaf	Washington	Joshua Long	Eastern Michigan		
DJ Vonnahme	Iowa	Juice Vereen	Colorado State		
Dorian Flemming	Maryland	Lawson Luckie	Georgia		
Dorian Thomas	Cal	Luke Hasz	Ole Miss		
Dylan Wade	UCF	Luke Lindermeier	Nebraska		
Eli Finley	Louisiana Tech	Luke Reynolds	Virginia Tech		
Elija Lofton	Miami (FL)	Matt Wagner	Boise State		
Ethan Davis	Tennessee	Michael Masunas	Texas		
Gabe Burkle	Penn State	Patrick Overmyer	Houston		
Garrett Oakley	Kansas St	Peter Clarke	Temple		
Houston Thomas	Texas A&M	Randy Pittman Jr	SMU		

The John Mackey Award is a proud member of the NCFAA which encompasses 25 of the most prestigious awards in college football, dating back to 1935, honoring more than 950 recipients. Sixteen NCFAA members are unveiling preseason watch lists over a 15-day period. Visit [NCFAA.org](https://www.ncfaa.org) to learn more.

NCFAA 2025 Preseason Watchlist Calendar

Mon., Aug. 3: Maxwell Award
Tue., Aug. 4: Outland Trophy/Bronko Nagurski Trophy
Wed., Aug 5: John Mackey Award
Thu., Aug 6: Rimington Trophy
Fri., Aug. 7: Lou Groza Award
Mon., Aug. 10: Paul Hornung Award
Tue., Aug. 11: Allstate Wuerffel Trophy
Wed., Aug. 12: Paycom Jim Thorpe Award
Thu., Aug. 13: Butkus Award
Fri., Aug. 14: Ray Guy Award
Mon., Aug. 17: Walter Camp Award
Tue., Aug. 18: Doak Walker Award
Web., Aug19: Biletnikoff Award
Thu., Aug. 20: Davey O'Brien Award
Fri., Aug. 21: Bednarik Award

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Visit **www.mackeyaward.com** for the latest news, watch lists, award announcements, and information on the John Mackey Award. Follow **@TheMackeyAward** on X and Instagram for updates throughout the college football season