John Mackey Award Names Wake Forest's Dominick Barry Week 7 Player of the Week

Freshman Tight End's Three-Touchdown Performance Powers Wake Forest to Dominant ACC Victory; Middle Tennessee's Koraun Perdue and Eastern Michigan's Joshua Long Earn Honorable Mention Recognition

October 20, 2026 — The John Mackey Award has named **Wake Forest freshman tight end Dominick Barry** its Week 7 Player of the Week following an outstanding three-touchdown performance in the Demon Deacons' commanding 41–7 victory over California. Middle Tennessee's Koraun Perdue and Eastern Michigan's Joshua Long have also earned Honorable Mention recognition for their impressive performances.



PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Dominick Barry | Wake Forest
4 Receptions | 102 Receiving Yards | 3 Touchdowns
Final: Wake Forest 41, California 7

Wake Forest freshman tight end Dominick Barry delivered one of the most impressive performances by a tight end this season, recording four receptions for 102 yards and three touchdowns in a dominant ACC victory over California.

Averaging 25.5 yards per reception, Barry demonstrated an exceptional combination of big-play ability and scoring efficiency, finding the end zone on three of his four catches.

What makes Barry's performance particularly noteworthy is his status as a freshman. While many young tight ends spend their early collegiate careers developing the physical and technical skills required to play the position, Barry is already making a significant impact against Power Four competition.

HONORABLE MENTION

Koraun Perdue | Middle Tennessee
4 Receptions | 103 Receiving Yards | 1 Touchdown

Perdue turned in an explosive performance for Middle Tennessee, recording four receptions for 103 yards and a touchdown. Averaging 25.8 yards per reception, Perdue demonstrated his ability to stretch the field and generate significant offensive production from the tight end position. His performance showcased the impact tight ends can make as downfield receiving threats.

Joshua Long | Eastern Michigan
7 Receptions | 84 Receiving Yards | 1 Touchdown

Long continued to establish himself as a reliable offensive weapon for Eastern Michigan, hauling in seven receptions for 84 yards and a touchdown. His combination of volume, consistency, and scoring production demonstrated the versatility required of today's tight ends. Long's performance further highlighted the significant contributions being made at the position across the Group of Six conferences.

THE EVOLUTION AND IMPACT OF THE TIGHT END POSITION

Through seven weeks of the 2026 college football season, tight ends across the country continue to demonstrate why the position has become one of the most dynamic and valuable in modern football.

This week's honorees represent three different programs and conferences, each demonstrating a different dimension of the position's offensive impact. From Barry's three-touchdown breakout as a freshman to Perdue's explosive downfield production and Long's consistent receiving contributions, tight ends continue to play an increasingly important role in offensive success.

ABOUT THE JOHN MACKEY AWARD

The **John Mackey Player of the Week** is an honor distinct from the annual John Mackey Award. The weekly honor was established in 2004 to draw attention to outstanding individual performances by tight ends throughout the college football season.

The Player of the Week recognition does not have a direct bearing on the final John Mackey Award selection process. The weekly honor will continue through the announcement of the eight John Mackey Award semifinalists.

The **John Mackey Award** was established in 2000 by the Nassau County Sports Commission and is presented annually to the tight end who performs at the highest level on and off the field.

The John Mackey Award is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA)**, which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football, dating back to 1935.

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