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2022 POLYNESIAN COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

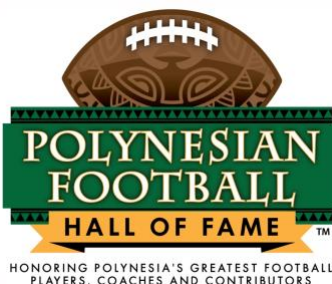


Honolulu, HI (August 18, 2022) – The Polynesian Football Hall of Fame announced today the 2022 Watch List for the **Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Award**. The Award is presented annually to the most outstanding college football player of Polynesian ancestry that epitomizes great ability and integrity. The Watch List is composed of 85 players from 43 different FBS schools.

Former University of Oregon and current Atlanta Falcons Quarterback, **Marcus Mariota** was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Award in 2014; former University of Notre Dame and current Baltimore Ravens Offensive Lineman, **Ronnie Stanley** received the award in 2015; former University of Colorado Quarterback **Sefo Liufau** received the award in 2016; former Washington State Defensive End **Hercules Mata'afa** received the award in 2017; former University of Alabama and current Miami Dolphins Quarterback **Tua Tagovailoa** received the award in 2018 & 2019; former University of Oregon Offensive Tackle and current Detroit Lions Offensive Lineman, **Penei Sewell** received the award in 2019; former University of Southern California and current San Francisco 49ers Safety, **Talanoa Hufanga**, and former Brigham Young University and current New York Jets Quarterback, **Zach Kapon Wilson** received the award in 2020; and former Ohio State University and current Tennessee Titans Defensive Lineman **Haskell Garrett** received the award in 2021.

“The Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Award has become one of the most competitive and prestigious awards in college football,” said **Jesse Sapolu**, Polynesian Football Hall of Fame Chairman, Co-Founder and Inductee. “This award has become a source of great pride for Polynesians everywhere.”

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Five finalists for the 2022 Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Award will be unveiled on December 1st and the winner will be announced on December 15th. The presentation of the Award will be held during the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week **Celebration Dinner** (January 21, 2023) at the Sheraton Waikiki, and they will also be recognized during the **Polynesian Bowl** (January 20, 2023).

The Watch List candidates have been selected based on past performance and future potential. Additions to the list may be made as the 2022 season progresses. The finalists and winner will be chosen by the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame Selection Committee which includes former NFL Player and Inaugural Inductee **Jack "The Throwin' Samoan" Thompson** (Chairman), Coaches **Ron McBride** and **Dick Vermeil**, former NFL Player and Inaugural Inductee **Olin Kreutz**, Inaugural Inductee and past NFLPA president **Kevin Mawae**, former NFL player and Class of 2015 Inductee **Ray Schoenke**, ESPN Sportscaster **Neil Everett**, and NFL Network commentator **Steve Wyche**.

2022 Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Watch List

First Name	Last Name	Position	School	Conference
Chaz	Ah You	S	BYU	Independent
Ulumoo	Ale	OL	Washington	Pac-12
Falepule	Alo	OL	Utah State	Mountain West
Malaesala	Amuvae-Laulu	OL	Oregon	Pac-12
Sione	Asi	DL	Oklahoma State	Big 12
Popo	Aumavae	DL	Oregon	Pac-12
Henry	Bainivalu	OL	Washington	Pac-12
Chevan	Cordeiro	QB	San Jose State	Mountain West
Levani	Damuni	LB	Stanford	Pac-12
Semisi	Fakasieiki	LB	Purdue	Big Ten
Aaron	Faumui	DL	Virginia	ACC
Leif	Fautanu	OL	UNLV	Mountain West
Troy	Fautanu	OL	Washington	Pac-12
Villiami	Fehoko	DL	San Jose State	Mountain West
Ma'ake	Fifita	OL	Washington State	Pac-12
Chuck	Filiaga	OL	Minnesota	Big Ten
Ami	Finau	DL	Maryland	Big Ten
Sione	Finau	OL	Purdue	Big Ten
Taliese	Fuaga	OL	Oregon State	Pac-12
Josh	Fuga	DL	Virginia Tech	ACC
Mase	Funa	DL	Oregon	Pac-12
George	Holani	RB	Boise State	Mountain West
Kekaniokoa	Holomalia-Gonzalez	OL	Boise State	Mountain West
Siaki	Ika	DL	Baylor	Big 12
Muelu	Iosefa	LB	California	Pac-12
Jonah	Kahahawai-Welch	DL	Hawai'i	Mountain West
Brandon "Ale"	Kaho	LB	UCLA	Pac-12
Cameron	Latu	TE	Alabama	SEC
Jonah	Laulu	DL	Oklahoma	Big 12
Sataoa	Laumea	OL	Utah	Pac-12
Tai	Lavatai	QB	Navy	AAC
Tuli	Letuilgasenoa	DL	Washington	Pac-12
Jermayne	Lole	DL	Louisville	ACC
Johnny	Maea	OL	Utah	Pac-12
Atonio	Mafi	OL	UCLA	Pac-12
Atunaisa	Mahe	DL	BYU	Independent
Ahofitu	Maka	OL	UTSA	C-USA
Malone	Mataele	CB	Utah	Pac-12
Alii	Matau	LB	San Jose State	Mountain West
Tetairoa	McMillan	WR	Arizona	Pac-12
Manase	Mose	OL	North Texas	C-USA
Hale	Motu'apuaka	DL	Utah State	Mountain West
Darius	Muasau	LB	UCLA	Pac-12

First Name	Last Name	Position	School	Conference
Puka	Nacua	WR	BYU	Independent
Mosiah	Nasili-Kite	DL	Maryland	Big Ten
Ezekiel	Noa	LB	Boise State	Mountain West
Sio	Nofoagatoto'a	DL	Indiana	Big Ten
Jaydn	Ott	RB	California	Pac-12
Jonah	Panoke	WR	Hawai'i	Mountain West
Lokahi	Paule	OL	UCF	AAC
Keenan	Pili	LB	BYU	Independent
Brandon	Pili	DL	USC	Pac-12
Noa	Pola-Gates	S	Nebraska	Big Ten
Tennessee	Pututau	DL	Utah	Pac-12
Isaac	Rex	LB	BYU	Independent
Merlin	Robertson	LB	Arizona State	Pac-12
Logan	Sagapolu	OL	Miami	ACC
Jalen	Sami	DL	Colorado	Pac-12
Jonah	Savaiinaea	OL	Arizona	Pac-12
Tiaolii	Savea	DL	Arizona	Pac-12
Noah	Sewell	LB	Oregon	Pac-12
Isaac	Slade-Matautia	LB	SMU	AAC
Blessman	Ta'ala	DL	Hawai'i	Mountain West
Stanley	Ta'ufo'ou	DL	USC	Pac-12
Junior	Tafuna	OL	Utah	Pac-12
Taulia	Tagovailoa	QB	Maryland	Big Ten
Sam	Taimani	DL	Oregon	Pac-12
Toa	Taua	RB	Nevada	Mountain West
Siale	Taupaki	OL	UCLA	Pac-12
Jonah	Tavai	DL	San Diego State	Mountain West
Justus	Tavai	DL	San Diego State	Mountain West
Henry	To'oto'o	LB	Alabama	SEC
Lawrance	Toafili	RB	Florida State	ACC
Jay	Toia	DL	UCLA	Pac-12
J.T.	Tuimoloau	DE	Ohio State	Big Ten
Earl	Tuioi-Mariner	DL	BYU	Independent
Tuli	Tuipulotu	DL	USC	Pac-12
Tama	Tuitele	LB	Northern Colorado	Big Sky
Joe	Tukuafu	OL	BYU	Independent
Sione	Tupou	LB	Texas State	Sun Belt
Zion	Tupuola-Fetui	LB	Washington	Pac-12
D.J.	Uiagalelei	QB	Clemson	ACC
Alama	Uluvae	OL	San Diego State	Mountain West
Solo	Vaipulu	OL	Hawai'i	Mountain West
Devaughn	Vele	WR	Utah	Pac-12

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ABOUT THE POLYNESIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The Polynesian Football Hall of Fame honors Polynesia's greatest players, coaches, and contributors. Its permanent home is located at the **Polynesian Cultural Center** (Laie, Hawai'i) and was established in 2013 by Super Bowl Champions **Jesse Sapolu** and **Ma'a Tanuvasa**. Other board members include **Troy Polamalu**, **Vai Sikahema**, **June Jones** and **Reno Mahe**. There are currently 43 inductees. The Polynesian Football Hall of Fame has provided over \$300,000 in college scholarships to date. For more information, go to PolynesianFootballHOF.org.

ABOUT THE POLYNESIAN BOWL

The Polynesian Bowl is a premier all-star game played annually in Honolulu, Hawai'i that features 100 of the nation's top ranked high school seniors of Polynesian and non-Polynesian ancestry alike – many whom have gone on to play in the NFL. The game has become the most sought-after all-star football invitation – a rapid rise from its inaugural game in 2017. This past January, top ranked 2022 player **Travis Hunter** participated in the game and was named Offensive MVP. Major partners include **Microsoft Surface Pro**, **adidas**, **BodyArmor**, **Riddell**, **CrossCountry Mortgage**, **Friends of Hawai'i Charities**, **Hawaiian Airlines**, **HBCTC**, **Hawai'i News Now** and **World Wide Safety**. For more information, go to PolynesianBowl.com.