


**The Biletnikoff Award Announces Three Finalists. The Biletnikoff Award National Selection Committee's Voting Commences November 24 and Ends December 5 to Determine the Winner of the Biletnikoff Award, Which Recognizes the College Football Season's Outstanding FBS Receiver at Any Position.**

**For Immediate Release: November 24, 2026**

**Tallahassee, FL** - The Tallahassee Quarterback Club (TQC) Foundation, Inc., the Florida-based creator and sponsor of the prestigious Biletnikoff Award, announces the finalists for the 2026 Biletnikoff Award. The secure and confidential electronic voting by the distinguished members of the Biletnikoff Award National Selection Committee was conducted from November 16th through November 22th, and certified by a prominent CPA firm.

The Biletnikoff Award annually recognizes the college football season's outstanding FBS receiver. **Any player, regardless of position (wide receiver, tight end, slot back, and running back) who catches a pass is eligible for the award.** As such, the Biletnikoff Award recognizes college football's outstanding receiver, not merely college football's outstanding *wide* receiver. Tight end Kyle Pitts was a finalist in 2020 and other tight ends were semifinalists in prior and subsequent years. Moreover, the Biletnikoff Award is a single season, not career, award.

The Biletnikoff Award's semifinalists, three finalists, and award recipient are selected by the highly distinguished Biletnikoff Award National Selection Committee, a group of 650 prominent college football journalists, commentators, announcers, Biletnikoff Award winners, and other former receivers. Foundation trustees do not vote and have never voted. For a list of voters, please see BiletnikoffAward.com/voters.

The Biletnikoff Award candidate eligibility and voting criteria, transparently explicit and detailed, are available for review at BiletnikoffAward.com/criteria.

Recently, the Tallahassee Quarterback Club Foundation opened the 2026 FanVote. Every fan may vote once daily on the Biletnikoff Award FanVote page. The aggregate fan tally will be counted as one official vote to determine semifinalists, finalists (three receivers), and the winner. In the closest contest in years, the FanVote tally provided the one-vote margin of victory for 2013 winner Brandin Cooks of Oregon State.

**The 2026 Biletnikoff Award finalists are as follows:**

(See below)

# 2026 Finalists

BILETNIKOFF AWARD

## Winner Announced on Biletnikoff Award Social Media at 7PM EST on December 11.

**Jesse Legree**
Oregon State



**Jeremiah Smith**
Ohio State



**Malachi Toney**
Miami






**2025 Biletnikoff Award winner Makai Lemon of USC**



**Foundation Chairman John Harris Jr., assisted by Rocket Ismail, keynote speaker, presented the beautiful Biletnikoff Award trophy to All-America Makai Lemon at the 32nd Biletnikoff Award Banquet with 700 patrons in attendance on Saturday March 28, 2026.**

Makai Lemon was formerly introduced by Coach Lincoln Riley and presented the Biletnikoff Award trophy by TQC Foundation Chairman John Harris Jr., assisted by College Football Hall of Famer Raghib "Rocket" Ismail, keynote speaker, at the sold-out black-tie Biletnikoff Award Banquet & Celebration at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Internationally acclaimed concert pianist Marvin Goldstein composed and played a tribute to the greatness of Makai Lemon and America. The banquet, always sold-out and attended by 700 patrons, was hailed by 2014 keynote speaker Dick Vermeil, as well as by 2013 keynoter Larry Csonka, as "the best banquet in college sports."

The banquet has featured distinguished keynoters of profound character and accomplishments including the late Bart Starr, Dick Vermeil, the late Floyd Little, Larry Csonka, Steve Largent, the late Mike Ditka, the late Don Shula, the late Dan Reeves, Archie Manning, Ron Jaworski, Gene Stallings, Bob Griese, Bill Curry, the late Bobby Bowden, Jim Kelly, Jerry Kramer, Joe Theismann, Dan Fouts, Chad Hennings, the late Lou Holtz, Aaron Taylor, Archie Griffin, Danny Wuerffel, Rocket Ismail, Drew Pearson, and Gino Torretta.

The correlation between Biletnikoff Award winners and stardom in the National Football League is nearly uniformly consistent. Past Biletnikoff Award winners include Calvin Johnson, Randy Moss, Michael Crabtree, Amari Cooper, Golden Tate, Brandin Cooks, the late Terry Glenn, Ja'Marr Chase, DeVonta Smith, and Larry Fitzgerald.

The 501(c)(3) TQC Foundation's charitable mission is the provision of college and vocational scholarships to North Florida high school seniors who have overcome significant challenges to achieve at the highest academic and extracurricular levels. Participation in sports is not a requirement, but does count as an extracurricular activity. The all-volunteer Foundation has provided over 360 scholarships with benefits of over 7 million dollars through 2026. TQC Founding Trustee & many-times chairman Walter Manley II, serving his 30th year as fundraising chairman, recently announced a goal of 10 million dollars in the aggregate to be awarded in scholarships by 2030.

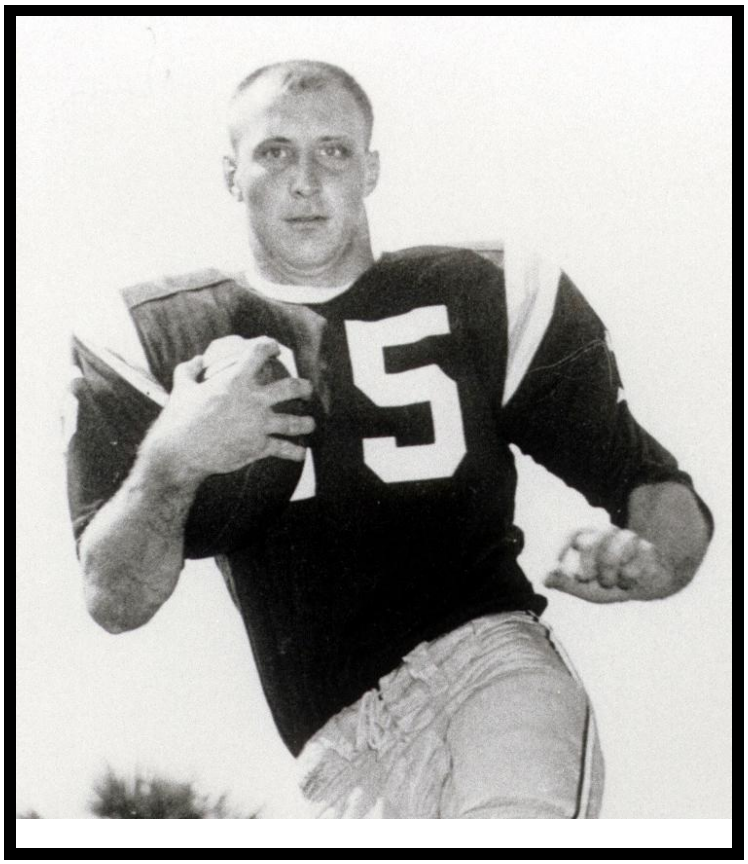


**2026 Scholarship Recipients**



**2025 Scholarship Recipients**

The name *Biletnikoff* is synonymous with the term *receiver*. Fred Biletnikoff, a member of the pro and college football halls of fame, was a consensus 1st-team All-America receiver at Florida State University and an All-Pro receiver for the Oakland Raiders. He caught 589 passes for 8,974 yards and 76 touchdowns in his 14-year Raiders career from 1965 through 1978. Fred was the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XI.



**Fred Biletnikoff was Florida State's first consensus 1st-Team All-America**




**The AP All-Time All-America college football team features some of the most dominant Biletnikoff Award legends to ever play the game: First Team - Randy Moss (1997 winner), Larry Fitzgerald (2003 winner), and Brock Bowers (2022-23 semifinalist). Second Team - DeVonta Smith (2020 winner) and Tim Brown (BA voter). Congrats to these outstanding receivers!**

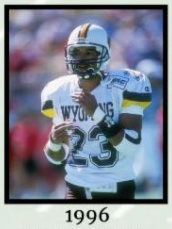
# Biletnikoff Award Winners



1994
Bobby Engram



1995
Terry Glenn



1996
Marcus Harris



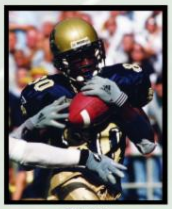
1997
Randy Moss



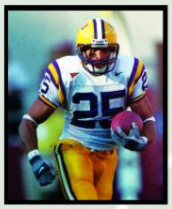
1998
Troy Edwards



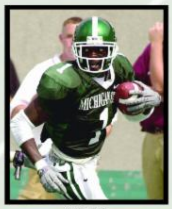
1999
Troy Walters



2000
Antonio Bryant



2001
Josh Reed



2002
Charles Rogers



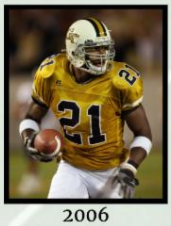
2003
Larry Fitzgerald



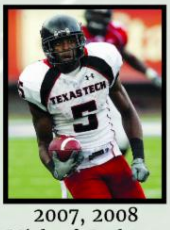
2004
Braylon Edwards



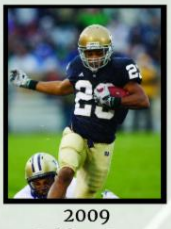
2005
Mike Hass



2006
Calvin Johnson



2007, 2008
Michael Crabtree



2009
Golden Tate



2010, 2011
Justin Blackmon



2012
Marqise Lee



2013
Brandin Cooks



2014
Amari Cooper



2015
Corey Coleman



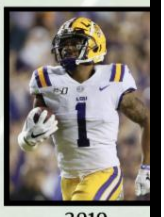
2016
Dede Westbrook



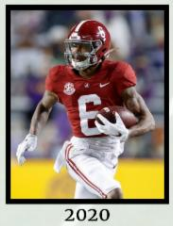
2017
James Washington



2018
Jerry Jeudy



2019
Ja'Marr Chase



2020
DeVonta Smith



2021
Jordan Addison



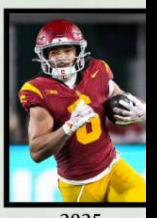
2022
Jalin Hyatt



2023
Marvin Harrison Jr



2024
Travis Hunter



2025
Makai Lemon

**The Biletnikoff Award**



The Biletnikoff Award annually recognizes the college football season's outstanding FBS receiver. **Any player, regardless of position (wide receiver, tight end, slot back, and running back) who catches a pass is eligible for the award.**

(BiletnikoffAward.com/about_award)

The TQC Foundation, Inc., is an independent, charitable organization designated with 501(c)(3) status that was founded in 1994. Many trustees have contributed to its development as one of the most prominent awards in college football. The TQC Foundation, Inc., joined the idea of a college receiver's award to the

**Important Dates**

**Aug. 19, 2026:**

Preseason Watch List announcement

**Sept. 23, 2026:**

FanVote opens

**Nov. 9 - 15, 2026:**

Vote by the Biletnikoff Award National Selection Committee to determine Semifinalists

**Nov. 16, 2026:**

Semifinalists announcement

**Nov. 16 - 22, 2026:**

Vote to determine 3 Finalists

organization's vision and created the outstanding award and dynamic organization.

The trophy, presented to each winner, is the most beautiful in college football - it has won several national, juried competitions for design excellence and aesthetic brilliance.

Likewise, the website and printed banquet program have been cited nationally for excellence in design and content.

The Tallahassee Quarterback Club Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, is the creator and sponsor of the Biletnikoff Award. The Foundation administers the Biletnikoff Award, its charitable activities, and the distinguished Biletnikoff Award National Selection Committee. Foundation Trustees do not serve on the National Selection Committee. For a full recounting of the

**Nov. 24, 2026:**

3 Finalists announcement

**Nov. 24 - Dec. 5, 2026 :**

Final vote to determine Biletnikoff Award Winner

**Dec. 11, 2026:**

Biletnikoff Award Winner announced on The Home Depot College Football Awards

**The Biletnikoff Award Banquet & Celebration**

honors the 2026 Biletnikoff Award Winner on Saturday, March 20, 2027, at the basketball arena at Donald L. Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee, Florida 32301

**Inquiries:**

Chairman of Selection:

Professor Walter W. Manley II

Foundation Founding Trustee & Past Chairman of the Tallahassee Quarterback Club Foundation, Inc.

Foundation's activities, please consult BiletnikoffAward.com.

**National College Football Awards Association**

The Biletnikoff Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA), which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. The NCFAA's 25 awards have honored nearly 1,000 recipients since 1935. This season, 12 NCFAA awards will honor national players of the week each Tuesday.


Creator and Sponsor of the Biletnikoff Award

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**Important Links:**

Biletnikoff Award Website

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| For more information about the NCFAA and its award programs, visit NCFAA.org or follow on X at @NCFAA and Instagram @TheNCFAA. | Scholarship Information<br><br>Scholarship Application<br><br>Scholarship Donations |