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2021 Rotary Lombardi Award Watch List Revealed

Houston - The [Rotary Lombardi Award](#) in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Houston is pleased to announce the prospective 80 players who will compete for this year's coveted award. The Rotary Lombardi Award goes annually to the college football offensive or defensive lineman, who in addition to outstanding performance and ability, best exemplifies the character and discipline of NFL Hall of Fame Head Coach Vince Lombardi.

This year's watch list is filled with talent from a multitude of schools and conferences, which should make for an exciting voting process. To be considered for the Rotary Lombardi Award, players must be a NCAA FBS College Football team member and meet the following qualifications:

- Be a down Lineman, end to end, either on offense or defense, setting up no further than ten (10) yards to the left or right of the ball at the time of the snap.
- Be a Linebacker on defense, setting up no further than five (5) yards deep from the line of scrimmage.
- Must **not** come out of the offensive backfield and set up on the line of scrimmage as a Blocker or a Receiver or listed in the program as an Offensive Back or Receiver.
- Be eligible to participate in the current season.

The voting process for this year's award ceremony will go as follows.

- First round ballots are to be emailed by Sept 24th and voting ends on Oct 11th. The 12 semifinalists from the first round will be announced Oct 13th.
- The second-round ballots will be emailed Oct 15th and voting ends on Nov 8th. The 4 finalists from the second round will be announced Nov 9th.
- Lastly, third round ballots will be emailed by Nov 15th and voting ends on Dec 6th.

Honorary Chair Famed Green Bay Packer Jerry Kramer, 1987 Winner Chris Spielman, the four nominees, and their coaches will attend the award ceremony on December 8th event in Houston Texas.

All ten Division-I FBS conferences will be represented in the 80-player watch list. From the reigning Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) champion Clemson Tigers, Bryan Breese is one of many notable headlines from this year's watch list. Breese, the ACC defensive rookie of the year will be in running for the award alongside Big 12's Defensive Player of the Year Mike Rose from

Iowa State. In addition, North Texas' defensive lineman and recent CUSA first team AllConference honoree, Dion Novil, will make a convincing case to bring home the award. Troy's Carlton Martial will undoubtedly be another notable player on the watch list after leading the country in total tackles this past season.

The SEC offers their own fair share of worthy star players from teams including, Alabama, Texas A&M, Georgia, LSU, and Kentucky. Alabama standouts Henry To'o To'o, Phidarian Mathis, and Christian Harris are 3 of 6 Alabama players on the list. Three Texas A&M players, Jalen Wydermyer, Demarvin Leal, and Kenyon Green, join the list with two LSU players: Mike Jones Jr and O'Cyrus Torrence. Meanwhile Pac-12 and UCLA standout Greg Dulcich will be looking to win the award. Dulcich will not be the only player seeking the award out of the AllPac-12 as Washington boasts two players of their own: Jaxson Kirkland a first team All-Pac-12 left tackle and Edefuan Ulofoshio an All-Pac-12 2nd Team LB.

Among those representing the Big Ten include Thayer Munford, Ohio State offensive tackle and preseason 1st team All-American (Walter Camp), pre-season 1st team All-Big Ten and the highest rated returning offensive tackle (Pro Football Focus); Tyler Linderbaum, center, Iowa 1st team All- Big Ten preseason, 1st team All-American (Phil Steele) preseason, 2020 finalist Rimington Award; Jack Sanborn, LB, Wisconsin, 1st team preseason All-Big Ten, 2020 3rd team All-American (Pro Football Focus), Bednarik and Butkus award watch lists.

These names are only a few out of a watch list of 80 great players deserving of the Rotary Lombardi Award. The winner to be announced on Dec 8th will be able to add their name to a notable list of past winners such as Ndamukong Suh, Aaron Taylor, Julius Peppers, Terrell Suggs, Aaron Donald, and two-time winner Orlando Pace.

2021 Rotary Lombardi Award Watch List

First	Last	Position	School	Player Highlights
Will	Anderson	OLB	Alabama	SEC All Freshman Team, 2nd team all SEC (AP)
Nick	Anderson	LB	Tulane	74 tackles on the season, 58 solo, 16 assisted (JUCO)
Shea	Baker	G	Rice	2021 Phil Steele ALL Conference USA Preseason 1st team
Trey	Baldwin	LB	Louisiana Tech	2nd team all-C-USA. 1st in C-USA & 11th in FBS in solo tackles
Clark	Barrington	OL	BYU	Phil Steele All-Independent 2 nd Team in 2020
Bryan	Bresee	DL	Clemson	2 nd ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year in Clemson history
Keondre	Coburn	DL	Texas	25 tackles (13 solo), 4.5 tackles for loss, one sack in 10 games
Kahlia	Davis	DT	UCF	2019 Pro Football Focus 1st-Team All-AAC 8.0 TFLs and 3.0 sacks in 2019
Kuony	Deng	OLB	California	T-3 in Pac-12, 4th nationally with 0.5 forced fumbles per game
SirVocea	Dennis	LB	Pittsburgh	All ACC third team, 57 tackles team high
Jojo	Domann	OLB	Nebraska	58 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, 5 pass breakups, 2 forced fumbles.
Greg	Dulcich	TE	UCLA	2nd in the nation among TEs in receiving yards per game (73.9)
Jamare	Edwards	DL	Marshall	2nd team all-conference in 2020; 2021 Nagurski Trophy Watch List
Emil	Ekiyor, Jr.	G	Alabama	Blocked for the power 5's #1 scoring offense (48.5 PPG)

Ikem	Ekwonu	OL	NC State	Earned 2nd-team All ACC by AP at both guard <i>and</i> tackle
James	Empey	C	BYU	2021 preseason All-America selection by Phil Steele, Team captain
Jake	Ferguson	TE	Wisconsin	John Mackey Award Watch List
Amari	Gainer	LB	Florida State	65 tackles, 5 for loss in 9 games, Bowden Leadership Award winner
Haskell	Garrett	DT	Ohio State	10 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss in 11 games
Grant	Gibson	C	NC State	Ranked as the 9 th best center nationally by PFF
Cameron	Goode	OLB	California	19 tackles, team highs of 8.0 tackles for loss (-23 yards)
Kenyon	Green	OL	Texas A&M	FWSA All America 1st Team, AP All America and SEC 2 nd team
Tyler	Grubbs	LB	Louisiana Tech	2020 FWSA, ESPN and 247Sports.com Freshman
Christian	Harris	MLB	Alabama	Semifinalist for Butkus award, 79 stops, 7 for losses and 4.5 sacks
Drake	Jackson	OLB	USC	2x All Pac-12 2 nd team, 17 of 66 career tackles are for losses
Jermaine	Johnson	DE	Florida State	16 tackles, 5.0 sacks, 11 QB hurries in 7 games in 2020 season
Mike	Jones, Jr.	LB	LSU	47 tackles, 8.0 tackles for loss, 0.5 sack and 2 interceptions
Calijah	Kancey	DL	Pittsburgh	27 tackles, seven tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks in 2020
Darian	Kinnard	OT	Kentucky	Third Team All American (AP)
Jaxson	Kirkland	LT	Washington	1st team All-Pac-12, Pac 12 Academic Honor Roll
Charlie	Kolar	TE	Iowa State	1st team All-Big 12, Finalist for John Mackey Award
Doug	Kramer	C	Illinois	14 big time run blocks in 2019 most PFF ever recorded by a power 5C
Brant	Kuithe	TE	Utah	2x All-Pac-12 TE
Demarvin	Leal	DL	Texas A & M	Led defense in hurries with eight and ranked fifth in tackles with 37
Matthew	Lee	Center	UCF	2020 1st-Team All-AAC, Athletic Freshman All-American, Started all 10 games at Center in 2020
Isaiah	Likely	TE	Coastal Carolina	2020 Pro Football Focus All-America 2nd Team
Tyler	Linderbaum	C	Iowa	Preseason 1 st team All-American by Phil Steele, 1 st team All-Big Ten
Alec	Lindstrom	OL	Boston College	All-ACC 1st Team honors, Rimington Award Watch List
Jermayne	Lole	DL	Arizona State	72 tackles in 2019, the 3rd most for Sun Devil D lineman since 1990
Cain	Madden	OL	Notre Dame	1 of 2 OL to earn All-Conference USA honors, (2nd team)
DeAngelo	Malone	DL	WKU	C-USA preseason defensive player of the year, Bednarik Watch List
Hayes	Maples	LB	Southern Miss	Led team in tackles last season (91) with a team-best 8.0 TFLs
Carlton	Martial	LB	Troy	All-Sun Belt 1st team after leading the country with 113 tackles
Phidarian	Mathis	DL	Alabama	31 tackles, 5 for loss (-10 yds) and 1.5 sacks (-6 yards) in 2020
Ochaun	Mathis	DE	TCU	2nd Team All-Big 12, Def Lineman of the Year Honorable mention
Trey	McBride	TE	Colorado State	2020 Preseason All-Mountain West
Jordan	McFadden	OT	Clemson	Earned 2nd-Team All-ACC honors from PFF
Micah	McFaden	LB	Indiana	2nd-team All-American (Phil Steele), 1st-team All-Big Ten (coaches)

James	Mitchell	TE	Virginia Tech	2020 Season team leader in receiving touchdowns
Manase	Mose	OL	North Texas	Honorable Mention All-CUSA, started 35 career games
Thayer	Munford	OL	Ohio State	2019 2nd Team All-Big Ten
Myles	Murphy	DE	Clemson	Freshman All-American Honors, 51 tackles, 4 sacks in 12 games
PJ	Mustipher	DT	Penn State	All-Big Ten Honorable Mention, 10 career starts at DT
Evan	Neal	OL	Alabama	Blocked for the Power 5's #1 Scoring Offense (48.5 PPG)
Dion	Novil	DL	North Texas	1st Team All-CUSA, 39 games played with 25 starts
Dylan	Parham	OL	Memphis	Has played 972-of-1,028 snaps (.946)
Jarrett	Patterson	C	Notre Dame	Rimington trophy watch list
Nicholas	Petit Frere	OT	Ohio State	Played in all 14 games for the Big Ten Champions in 2019
Jalen	Redmond	DL	Oklahoma	2019 led team with 6.5 sacks, ranked third with 11.0 tackles for loss
Mike	Rose	LB	Iowa State	Big 12 DPOY, 1st team All-American (Steele, the Athletic)
Michael	Saffell	C	California	Pac-12's Football Scholar-Athlete, Rimington Trophy watchlist
Jamaree	Salyer	OG	Georgia	All-SEC fourth team by Phil Steele
Jack	Sanborn	LB	Wisconsin	Third-team All-America (Pro Football Focus)
Kyler	Schott	G	Iowa	Honorable Mention All-Big Ten by league coaches and media
Cole	Schneider	G	UCF	2020 1st-Team, 2019 2 nd Team, All-AAC Started 34 games on the offensive line
Justin	Shaffer	G	Georgia	All-SEC third team by Phil Steele
Peter	Skoronkski	OL	Northwestern	All-Big Ten 2 nd Team by the Conference and AP
Jack	Snyder	OL	San Jose State	1st-team All-Mountain West, Mountain West POY (PFF.com)
Keenan	Stewart	DL	UTEP	Led all DL with 34 tackles, 7 tackles for loss (2nd most on team)
Ben	Stille	DL	Nebraska	27 tackles, 3.0 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks in 2020
Dante	Stills	DL	West Virginia	Leads team in career sacks (10), 1st in career tackles for loss (18)
Austin	Stogner	TE	Oklahoma	2 nd team All-Big 12 selection
Von	Strickland	DL	FIU	2020 All-C-USA Honorable Mention, Led FIU in TFLs in 2020
Henry	To'o To'o	MLB	Alabama	All SEC 4th team (Phil Steele), 2019 Freshman All - American
O'Cyrus	Torrence	G	LSU	2nd team All Sun- Belt, Offensive line finished the year ranked 5th
Edefuan	Ulofoshio	ILB	Washington	All-Pac-12 2 nd Team, All-American Honorable Mention
Edefuan	Ulofoshio	LB	Washington	All-Pac-12 2 nd Team
Zach	VanValkenburg	DE	Iowa	2 nd Team All-Big Ten (coaches and media), team hustle award
Rasheed	Walker	OL	Penn State	All-Big Ten 3 rd team, projected 1 st round pick
Kobie	Whiteside	DL	Missouri	27 tackles and a team-high 6.5 sacks for a loss of 51 yards
Dorian	Williams	LB	Tulane	9 tackles in 11 games
Kadofi	Wright	LB	Buffalo	23 tackles, 3 tackles for loss, 7 pass breakups best on team
Jalen	Wydermyer	TE	Texas A&M	2020 All Sec 2 nd Team

Just weeks after Coach Vince Lombardi's 1970 death from colon cancer, the [Rotary Club of Houston](#) was authorized by Lombardi's widow, Marie, to establish the Rotary Lombardi Award. As stipulated by Mrs. Lombardi, net proceeds from the Award's activities are contributed to Cancer Research and specifically the [American Cancer Society's](#) programs.

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