



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cliff Harris Award announces NCAA Division II finalists

Little Rock, AR – January 2, 2025 – The Cliff Harris Award NCAA Division II selection committee and Little Rock Touchdown Club, proudly announces the finalists for the 2024 Cliff Harris Award for NCAA Division II.

The Cliff Harris Award recognizes the top small college defensive player in the country in NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, and NAIA. This award highlights exceptional talent and contributions to the game by athletes who have made a significant impact on their teams.

The NCAA Division II finalists are:

Benari Black - Sr, LB, Johnson C. Smith University (NC)

Peyton Buckley- Sr, DB, Augustana University (SD)

Micah Cretsinger- Sr, DB, Saginaw Valley State (MI)

Jamair Diaz- So, DL, Glenville State College (WV)

Larry Elder- Gr, DB, Valdosta State University (GA)

Marquise Fleming- Gr, DL, Wingate University (NC)

Ricky Freymond- Jr, DL, Western Colorado University

Cam Hollobaugh- Jr, LB, Walsh University (Ohio)

Josiah Johnson- Sr, S, Ouachita Baptist University (AR)

Dion Kuinlan- Gr, DB, Assumption University (MA)

Myles Menges- Gr, DL, Fort Hays State University (KS)

Clay Schulte- Sr, LB, University of Indianapolis

Tanner Volk- Sr- S, Central Washington University

Lashon Young- Fr, DB, Miles College (Ala)

The winner of the 2024 Cliff Harris Award for NCAA Division II is selected by the Cliff Harris Award committee which includes Pro Football Hall of Famer, Cliff Harris. The winner will be announced on Tuesday, January 7th, 2025.

For media inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact:

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About the Cliff Harris Award: The Cliff Harris Award is an annual recognition program dedicated to celebrating exceptional defensive players in small college football. Named after Pro Football Hall of Famer Cliff Harris, the award acknowledges players who exhibit excellence on the field. The winners from each division are honored in the spring with an all expenses paid trip and VIP tour of ‘The Star’ in Frisco, TX alongside Cliff. There, they get a one of a kind, behind the scenes look at the most valuable and recognizable sports franchise in the world.



[2023 Cliff Harris Award winners from NAIA, NCAA DIII & NCAA DII alongside HOF Cliff Harris]

The Trophy: One of the most unique awards in all of college football, the \$3,000 Cliff Harris Award trophy stands almost two foot tall and weighs 35 pounds. A rare two-figurine sports action bronze sculpture, the Cliff Harris Award represents an actual tackle by NFL Hall of Fame and Dallas Cowboy great Cliff Harris, against Harold Jackson of the Los Angeles Rams. What makes this trophy truly exceptional is its intricate design, showcasing extreme angles and attachment points that secure the two bronze players to a three-tier walnut wood base, setting it apart from any other trophy in all levels of college football. Crafted from fourteen distinct bronze pieces, its assembly process ranks among the most intricate and complex in sports awards.

Every winner from DII, DIII and NAIA will receive their own Cliff Harris Award trophy. Sculpted by Raymond Gibby and designed by David Bazzel, this trophy embodies excellence in both craftsmanship and football achievement.



Over the last decade, many of the finalists and winners have continued their outstanding football careers in the National Football League.

Pierre Desir (Lindenwood, winner '13)
Malcom Butler (West Alabama, finalist '13)
Marqui Christian (Midwestern State, winner '15)
Matthew Judon (Grand Valley State, finalist '15)
Michael Joeseph (Dubuque, winner '17)
Corey Ballentine (Washburn, winner '18)
Kyle Duggar (Lenoir-Rhyne, winner '19)
Sam Roberts (Northwest Missouri State, winner '21)
Caleb Murphy (Ferris State, winner '22)



[Kyle Duggar- New England Patriots]

For more information about the Cliff Harris Award and to stay updated on the latest news and developments, please visit cliffharrisaward.com.