



## **U.S. Army and Pro Football Hall of Fame Announce High School Athlete Award Finalists** ***Ten Award for Excellence Finalists Named During Enshrinement Weekend***

**CANTON, Ohio (August 3, 2012)** – The U.S. Army and the Pro Football Hall of Fame today announced the ten high school athlete finalists for the U.S. Army – Pro Football Hall of Fame – Award for Excellence. The program, announced by Pro Football Hall of Famer Shannon Sharpe at the 2012 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, highlights the achievements of student-athletes across the country.

The program which was open to all United States sophomore and junior level high school athletes focused on not only athletic achievement, but excellence in academics and community engagement.

“Athletes and Army Strong Soldiers possess a unique and similar set of strengths,” said John Myers, Director of Marketing U.S. Army Marketing and Research Group. “We are excited to partner with the Pro Football Hall of Fame and to recognize these outstanding student-athletes; athletes who excel in their area of sport and who also excel academically. The most important attribute is that they are upstanding members of their communities. We look forward to joining with the ten finalists in San Antonio in January and celebrating their achievements.”

The ten finalists for the Award for Excellence will be recognized with a formal ceremony at their school later this fall. Finalists include (in alphabetical order):

**Peyton Aldridge**, LaBrae High School, Leavittsburg, Ohio  
**Benjamin Carpenter**, C.Leon King High School, Tampa, Florida  
**Robert Dixon**, Big Beaver Falls Area High School, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania  
**Nicholas Goldsmith**, St. Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago, Illinois  
**Andrew Henbest**, Cassville High School, Cassville, Missouri  
**Brendon Jonassaint**, Okeechobee High School, Okeechobee, Florida  
**Nathaniel Lewis**, Sacred-Heart Griffin High School, Springfield, Illinois  
**Melissa Macon**, East Bladen High School, Elizabethtown, North Carolina  
**Hunter Morrow**, Central High School, Keller, Texas  
**Alexis Murry**, Henry E. Lackey School, Indian Head, Maryland

Each of the 10 finalists will travel to the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl and participate in various activities. The winner of the Award for Excellence will be announced during the Bowl’s formal Awards Dinner on Friday, Jan. 4, 2013.

“The Pro Football Hall of Fame is proud to continue its mission to educate and promote the excellence that comes with America’s favorite game, football, and combine it with the U.S. Army’s mission of excellence in school, community service and through athletics,” said George Veras, President and CEO, Pro Football Hall of Fame Enterprises. “We are excited to recognize these ten student-athletes for their outstanding achievements and hard work.”

For more information on the program, visit: [www.goarmy.com/AAB](http://www.goarmy.com/AAB) or [www.profootballhof.com/Army](http://www.profootballhof.com/Army)

The Pro Football Hall of Fame is dedicated to educating, preserving, and honoring the great individuals and moments that have shaped the sport’s history with the largest collection in the world of artifacts, programs, and papers. The Hall is celebrating its 50 Years 2012-13. The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enterprises represents the Pro Football Hall of Fame and its members in the creation of commercial ventures, featuring Hall of Famers to serve the mission of the PFHOF to enable football fans and the general public to have greater access and interactions with Hall of Famers and the Hall of Fame.

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