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Top 25 Announced for the 2026 Ed Doherty Award

Twenty-five medallion recipients advance in the selection process

SCOTTSDALE (November 22, 2026) — The Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission (ASEC) and its managed entity, the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club (GCSGC), have announced the Top 25 for the 2026 Ed Doherty Award. The honorees advance from this season's medallion recipients as the program moves toward recognizing Arizona's outstanding high school football player.

The Top 25 represent 22 schools across Arizona. Their recognition builds on the weekly medallion program, which celebrates outstanding individual performances throughout the season.

2026 Top 25 Honorees

Listed alphabetically by first name, down each column.

Honoree	School	Honoree	School
Aaron Crawford	Chandler Prep	**Kingston Anetema**	Mesa High
Aidan Whitaker	McClintock	**Lucas Leist**	Lee Williams
Benjamin Wolfley	Trivium Prep	**Luke Franklin**	Centennial
Blake Roskopf	Desert Edge	**Micah Newcombe**	Dobson
Brenner Green	Snowflake	**Mikey Barth**	Basha High
Carter Camac	Highland	**Miles Woods**	Maryvale
D'Mari Bryant	Millennium	**Noah Roberts**	Basha High
Daryl Little	Thunderbird	**Tanner Austin**	Sunrise Mountain
Dylan Brush	Horizon	**Tee Smith**	Casteel
Gavin Wyler	Benjamin Franklin	**Tufden Taylor**	Thatcher
Jake Hildebrand	Basha High	**Vedder Wolfley**	Horizon
Jeffrey Smith III	Marana	**Will Mencl**	Chandler
Kael Snyder	Perry		

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About the Ed Doherty Award

Presented by the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club, the Ed Doherty Award annually recognizes Arizona’s most outstanding high school football player. Weekly medallions honor outstanding individual performances during the season and qualify recipients for consideration for the award.

About the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club

The Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club (GCSGC) is Arizona's leading advocate for high school football, dedicated to recognizing the state's top student-athletes. The club presents the prestigious Ed Doherty Award to the most outstanding prep football player at the end of each season, and in 2024 introduced the Arizona High School Flag Football Player of the Year Award, now given annually to the state’s top girls’ flag football player. Through these initiatives, the club celebrates individual athletic, academic, and leadership achievements, promoting Arizona’s rich football tradition on a national stage.

About the Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission

The Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission (ASEC) is a non-profit organization created in 1988. The commission collaborates with hundreds of partners to help fulfill the mission of bringing national and international sporting events to the state; assisting in the promotion of existing events and Arizona sports teams; providing volunteer recruitment and organization for large-scale sporting events; and developing youth sports programs. In 2009, it assumed oversight of the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2012, the Grand Canyon State Games and the Lori Piestewa National Native American Games. The ASEC was also the founding organization and owner of the 2015 NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. The commission is also co-owner and strategic partner for Section 7, one of the most prestigious boys' and girls' high school basketball recruiting events in the country. For more information on the ASEC, please call 480.517.9700 or visit www.azsportsent.com.

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