GRAND CANYON STATE GRIDIRON CLUB
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Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission Announces Top 50 for the 2026 Ed Doherty Award

Fifty medallion recipients from 32 Arizona schools advance toward the state's top individual high school football honor

PHOENIX (November 18, 2026). The Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission (ASEC) and its managed entity, the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club (GCSGC), today announced the Top 50 for the 2026 Ed Doherty Award. The list recognizes 50 medallion recipients from 32 Arizona high schools who advance in consideration for the award honoring Arizona's most outstanding high school football player.

Each of the Top 50 honorees earned an Ed Doherty Award Medallion during the 2026 season, qualifying for the award pool. The announcement marks the next step following the final weekly medallion selections on November 11.

"Every name on this list represents a player who has made a difference for his team," said Charlie Ragle, Ed Doherty Committee Co-Chair. "These young men have earned their medallions, and reaching the Top 50 is another achievement they can share with their teammates, coaches and families. Arizona has outstanding football in communities across the state, and our committee is proud to give these players the recognition they have earned."

The committee will announce the Top 25 on November 25 and the Top 10 on December 2. The 2026 Ed Doherty Awards Ceremony is scheduled for December 12.

The complete Top 50 roster appears below. Fans, families and school communities can follow the award announcements at www.footballarizona.com.

2026 Ed Doherty Award Top 50

Official roster

PLAYER	SCHOOL
Aaron Crawford	Chandler Prep Academy
Aidan Whitaker	McClintock High School
Andrew Godoy	Desert View High School
Anthony Palka	Higley High School
Austin Reese	Chandler High School
Benjamin Wolfley	Trivium Prep Academy
Benjamin Lowther	Centennial High School
Blake Roskopf	Desert Edge High School
Brenner Green	Snowflake High School
Brian Irick	Marcos de Niza High School
Carter Camac	Highland High School
Carter Volrich	Casteel High School
Christian Garcia	Marcos de Niza High School
D’Mari Bryant	Millennium High School
Dajohn Yarborough	Basha High School
Daryl Little	Thunderbird High School
Dylan Brush	Horizon High School
Gavin Wyler	Benjamin Franklin High School
Hajj Brown	Desert Edge High School
Iona Kupu	Chandler High School
Jack Andrews	Mica Mountain High School
Jai Jones	Chandler High School
Jake Hildebrand	Basha High School
Jake Rogers	Basha High School
Jax Sculley	Hamilton High School

2026 Ed Doherty Award Top 50

Official roster continued

PLAYER	SCHOOL
Jaylee Abraham	Centennial High School
Jeffrey Smith III	Marana High School
Kael Snyder	Perry High School
Kingston Anetema	Mesa High School
Kody Dodson	Chandler Prep Academy
Lachlan Geier	Queen Creek High School
Lucas Leist	Lee Williams High School
Luke Franklin	Centennial High School
Micah Newcombe	Dobson High School
Mikey Barth	Basha High School
Miles Woods	Maryvale High School
Noah Roberts	Basha High School
Preston Carney	Sunrise Mountain High School
Roman Oliver	Hamilton High School
Ryan Garner	Hayden High School
Ryder Noche	Brophy College Prep High School
Seaton Lobato	McClintock High School
Tanner Austin	Sunrise Mountain High School
Tee Smith	Casteel High School
Torrin Hill	Centennial High School
Tufden Taylor	Thatcher High School
Tye Kennedy	Mountain View High School
Vedder Wolfley	Horizon High School
Will Mencl	Chandler High School
Zaiden Virani	Eastmark High School

About the Ed Doherty Award

The Ed Doherty Award serves as the State of Arizona's highest individual high school football honor, annually recognizing the most outstanding player on and off the field. Recipients are selected for demonstrating remarkable ability combined with diligence, perseverance, hard work, and integrity in their pursuit of excellence, while also celebrating a commitment to academics, community, and school pride.

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 & 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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