



New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player

The Donaldsonville Tigers had locked up a playoff spot by the time Week 10 rolled around. Once they were up 46-0 in the 3rd quarter, they also thought they had locked up a victory over rival St. James. The Wildcats then made a furious comeback and had a chance to trim deficit to less than a TD when Cortez Mitchell came through with an interception to seal the game.

That interception along with 100 receiving yards, 1 receiving TD, 1 rushing TD, and (2) 2 point conversions propelled Mitchell to our New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award.

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Cortez Mitchell: Since I was 7 years old. I've played RB and WR.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

CM: Science

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

CM: Hang out with friends, play basketball, go to the mall.

LHSAA: What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

CM: I want to be a Business Owner. I would love to be my own boss.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

CM: Hitting people, scoring TD's, playing in front of big crowds in big time games.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

CM: I want to make it to the Dome. I also want to get better. It's late in the year, but my goals are 50 tackles and 10 INT's.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

CM: It means a lot. I worked real hard over the summer and in practice. I want to thank my coaches and everyone who voted for me.



Photo Courtesy of <http://dkmoon.zenfolio.com/>

The Week 8 LHSAA-New Orleans Saints Game of the Week saw two fantastic RB's battle it out. Pineville's Emanuel Mitchell had an amazing game as he rushed for 278 yards. However, New Iberia's **Velot Khammany had 116 rushing yards of his own accompanied by 2 TD's as he led New Iberia to the 41-17 victory and won the New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award.**

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Velot Khammany: Since I was 6 years old. When I was younger I played Cornerback, Linebacker, and Quarterback.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

VK: Biology

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

VK: Anything with art. Draw, paint, etc.

LHSAA: What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

VK: I'd like to be an Engineer, but I'm not good at math so I would have to overcome that. I'd also like to be a Graphic Designer and use my creativity.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

VK: Winning. Everyone loves to win. I love growing up with my teammates too.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

VK: I want to rush for 1,000 yards and 30 TD's, but that's difficult with the spread offense we run. I set my goals high and try to achieve them.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

VK: It means a lot. I've never won anything like this before. I want to thank my family, friends, and the people who believe in me that I don't even know. That's cool to me.



Photo Courtesy of The Daily Iberian

In Week 7 St. Martinville's Diantre Gardner not only had 2 receptions for 19 yards and 1 TD, but he also impressed voters enough to win our New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award despite the Tigers coming up just short against Cecilia. Diantre spoke to us about mentoring younger players, hard work paying off, and his future plans in the kitchen.

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Diantre Gardner: About 7 or 8 years.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

DG: Math.

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

DG: My dad is a Chef so I love cooking with him. Also hanging out with my friends and watching football. Rueben Randle is my favorite player right now.

LHSAA: What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

DG: I would love to own my own restaurant one day and become an Executive Chef.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

DG: I enjoy the responsibilities and working as a team. I also really like teaching younger players and helping them get better.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

DG: Like everyone I want to win State. Being that it is my first year at St. Martinville from Westgate, I want to help these guys make a run and experience what I've gotten to.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

DG: It's a real honor because it shows my improvement since I was a freshman and that hard work pays off. I want to thank the other guys on Offense.



Photo Courtesy of www.TecheToday.com

Trent Domingue knows all about winning. In February, Domingue and the St. Paul's Wolves came from behind to win the Division I soccer state title. When it comes to football, Domingue's Wolves are currently 7-0 and ranked #1 in class 5A. After all that success, it should come as no surprise that **Trent also won our Week 6 New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award**. Trent was a perfect 2/2 on XP's, had 3 touchbacks on kickoffs, placed both of his punts inside the 20, and booted a 41 yard FG.

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Trent Domingue: This is only my 2nd year playing football. I've played soccer my whole life.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

TD: Athletic Training

LHSAA: What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

TD: I want to do something in the medical field. Probably a Physical Therapist.

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

TD: Of course soccer. Hang out with friends, vacation, etc.

LHSAA: How hard is the adjustment from playing soccer to playing football?

TD: It's a big difference. For instance, you are supposed to swing your leg across the ball in soccer, but not in football. It's something I keep looking to improve on.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

TD: Winning. Being with my teammates. It's all just really fun.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

TD: My personal goal is to make All-State as a kicker and a punter. My team goals are to first win District. Then I want to get past the Quarters. We've struggled to get past there recently. Then of course I want to win State.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

TD: I couldn't have done it without my teammates. I want to thank especially my holder, snapper, and the line for blocking for me. I would like to thank everyone who nominated and voted for me. Also, the fans that come out to the games and my coaches.



Zachary High School has 2 fantastic senior RB's in Ron Pennington and Ladarrius Vessell. However, in Week 5 against West Feliciana **junior RB Boston Scott was able to run away with our New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award**. Scott took advantage of any opportunity to get on the field and scored 4 TD's via rushing (1), receiving (1), and punt returns (2).

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Boston Scott: I've been playing as long as I can remember, since I was about 5 or 6 years old.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

BS: Math.

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

BS: I love to play soccer. I am also in the band, and I like hanging out with my friends as well.

LHSAA: What instruments do you play in the band?

BS: I play guitar, trombone, trumpet, and piano.

LHSAA: That's impressive. What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

BS: I plan on majoring in Mechanical Engineering

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

BS: Being with my teammates, playing in front of the crowd under the lights, and being in the center of attention for a few hours.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

BS: I would love to get my name out there to scouts and colleges, and I also want to develop chemistry with the guys in my class to go as far as possible in the playoffs this year and next.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

BS: It is a big honor. I want to thank my teammates, my fellow RB's Ron and Ladarrius, my O-Line for blocking for me, my dad for preparing me, and most importantly God because with Him anything is possible.



Photo Courtesy of www.ZacharyToday.com

In 2010, St. Thomas More advanced all the way to the semi-finals of the 5A playoffs before losing to the eventual state champions, and cross-town rivals, Acadiana Rams. If the Cougars are planning on taking another step and reaching their first football state championship in school history, they are going to need players to step up every week. This past week it was **Andrew Mahtook who rose to the occasion as he took back an interception 22 yards for a TD, recovered a blocked punt, and won our New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player of the Week award.**

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Andrew Mahtook: Tackle since the 4th grade, but touch and flag since about the 2nd grade.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

AM: History. I love finding out what makes certain places unique.

LHSAA: What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

AM: I want to be an attorney.

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

AM: I run track. I am online a lot too. I like to get on Wikipedia or Google and just search random facts. I also love to eat and hang out with my friends.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

AM: I really enjoy the camaraderie of always being with my friends on and off the field.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

AM: I would love to win District and State. On a personal level, I had surgery on both shoulders after last year because I tore both labrums. I didn't even get to get back to live hitting until the Jamboree. I just want to get healthy and play my best.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

AM: It feels good. When you put in a lot of work in practice and the film room it means a lot to be recognized. I want to thank the coaches and the rest of the defense. I wouldn't have had the interception if it wasn't for the pressure we put on the QB and the tipped ball. It's all about the schemes.



Despite losing to Winnfield 35-0, **St. Mary's QB Steele Merritt played well enough to win over the fans and our New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award** for Week 3. Merritt finished with 98 yards on 8 of 19 passing, and played a key role in keeping his Tigers close throughout the contest.

During our interview Steele spoke about looking to advance deep in the playoffs, the struggles of being a 1A school, and overcoming a severe injury:

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Steele Merritt: Since 4th grade. I played Quarterback until I broke my neck in 8th grade. After that I switched to Wide Receiver. Our QB from last year graduated so Coach moved me back to QB.

LHSAA: Are you excited to be back at QB?

SM: Yeah. I love to have the ball in my hands.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

SM: Math.

LHSAA: What do you want to do when you grow up other than play football?

SM: I have some scholarship offers so I hope to definitely play football in college, but I also want to get my degree in Engineering.

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

SM: Hunting, fishing, anything outdoors.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

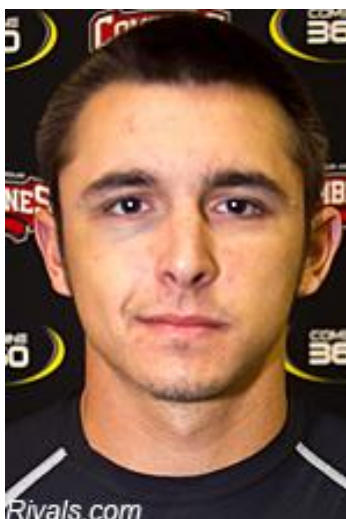
SM: Winning. I hate to lose.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

SM: Like everybody I want to win the State Championship. It is also important to me to at least go farther than last year. We lost in the 2nd round. It was tough because we had a lot of injuries.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

SM: It means a great deal. I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me, and the LHSAA for showing our game on TV. Sometimes it's hard to get recognition when you're a 1A school.



Jesuit Blue Jay Paul Stanton captured Week 2's New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award as he rushed for 100 yards during his team's 37-0 defeat of the cross-town rival Holy Cross Tigers. Stanton and his fellow seniors finished undefeated against Holy Cross.

We got to know Paul and what this rivalry means to those involved in our interview below:

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Paul Stanton: Since I was 5 years old. I've always played running back too.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

PS: Math

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

PS: Hang out with friends. I used to play basketball and I am going to start track this year.

LHSAA: If you are not playing football, what do you want to do when you grow up?

PS: Either a Mechanical Engineer or a Doctor.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

PS: Feeling like part of a team and being out there with my friends.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

PS: Go undefeated, win a State Championship, and rush for 1,000 yards.

LHSAA: As a Jesuit football player, how important is it to beat Holy Cross?

PS: It's our biggest game of the year other than the playoffs or State Championship. I've never lost to them and that's a good feeling.

LHSAA: What does winning this award mean to you?

PS: It means a great deal to me. I want to thank my O-Line for blocking for me, and our coaches for preparing us to win.

LHSAA: Thanks for taking the time to talk to us Paul. Good luck the rest of the season.

PS: Thank you sir.



In Week 1, Dutchtown's Landon Collins held off teammate Mason Nickens as well as Lutchet's Daniel Thomas and Jordan Baptiste to capture the New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player award. Landon rushed 7 times for 94 yards and 2 TD's, the first from 8 yards and the second from 62 yards out. Collins also had an interception, which he returned to the Lutchet 8 yard line, to set up his first TD.

Below is our interview with the first New Orleans Saints Most Outstanding Player of 2011, Dutchtown's Landon Collins:

LHSAA: How long have you been playing football?

Landon Collins: Since I was 4 years old, so about 14 years now.

LHSAA: What is your favorite subject in school?

LC: Math

LHSAA: What do you like to do for fun outside of football?

LC: Hang out with friends, watch movies, and go swimming.

LHSAA: What is your favorite part about playing football?

LC: Playing and being in front of the fans, scoring touchdowns, and hitting people.

LHSAA: If you are not playing football, what do you want to do when you grow up?

LC: Coach or a sports broadcaster.

LHSAA: What are your goals this year in football?

LC: I have 1 goal this season. I want to win a State Championship.

LHSAA: Thanks for taking the time to talk to us Landon, and good luck the rest of the season.

LC: No problem. I also want to thank and give a shout out to everyone for voting for me, especially in South Plaquemines Parish.

