

# 2026 Deacon Jones Player of the Year Watch List

Black College Football Hall of Fame • 52 Candidates

| Player              | School                        | Pos. |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Elijah Baker        | Alabama State                 | OL   |
| Joshua Barker       | South Carolina State          | DL   |
| Chase Bingmon       | Prairie View A&M              | RB   |
| Andrew Body         | Alabama State                 | QB   |
| Chance Bush         | Allen                         | OL   |
| Ka'Von Chisolm      | South Carolina State          | DL   |
| Jaiden Cleveland    | Clark Atlanta                 | DL   |
| Darius Cyprian      | Kentucky State                | WR   |
| Quaveon Davis       | Jackson State                 | OL   |
| Jamir Dismukes      | Fayetteville State University | QB   |
| Derrick Drayton     | Albany State                  | DL   |
| Wayne Favors        | Delaware State                | DB   |
| Joanes Fortilien    | Jackson State                 | WR   |
| Jordan Franklin     | South Carolina State          | LB   |
| Trevon French       | Edward Waters                 | LB   |
| Kedrick Green       | Howard                        | DB   |
| Malik Gucake        | Prairie View A&M              | DL   |
| Danarius Hilliard   | Arkansas-Pine Bluff           | LB   |
| Xzavier Jackson     | Clark Atlanta                 | QB   |
| Eden James          | Howard                        | RB   |
| Jaylen Jennings     | Arkansas-Pine Bluff           | RB   |
| Michael Joiner Jr   | Alabama State                 | DL   |
| Josh Jones          | North Carolina Central        | QB   |
| Brian Lane          | Johnson C. Smith University   | WR   |
| Isaiah Lawson       | North Carolina Central        | LB   |
| Rahsaan Matthews Jr | Virginia State University     | QB   |
| Arturo Mattocks     | Morgan State                  | LB   |
| Calvin McMillian    | Prairie View A&M              | OL   |
| AC McMoore          | North Carolina Central        | OL   |
| Ryan Nolan          | Norfolk State                 | OL   |
| Chance Peterson     | North Carolina Central        | WR   |
| James Reddick II    | South Carolina State          | OL   |
| Nate Rembert        | Jackson State                 | WR   |
| D'Avery Robinson    | Arkansas-Pine Bluff           | WR   |

| Player              | School                      | Pos. |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| Cameran Rogers      | Alcorn State                | OL   |
| Kam Sallis          | Jackson State               | DB   |
| Travion Searcy      | Central State               | DB   |
| Alex Simmons        | Morgan State                | TE   |
| Ta'Shaun Sims       | Alabama State               | DB   |
| David Smith         | Benedict                    | RB   |
| Bobby Smith         | Johnson C. Smith University | RB   |
| Tyler Smith         | South Carolina State        | RB   |
| Johntarrious Thomas | Edward Waters               | RB   |
| Eric Thomas Jr      | Alcorn State                | DL   |
| Darius Thompson     | South Carolina State        | WR   |
| Isaiah Turner       | Benedict                    | OL   |
| Moses Umoren        | South Carolina State        | OL   |
| Zach Underwood      | Morehouse                   | DL   |
| Mehki Wall          | North Carolina Central      | WR   |
| Brandon Wiley       | Bluefield State University  | WR   |
| Jaylen Williams     | Norfolk State               | DL   |
| Wyatt Wright        | Alabama A&M                 | LB   |

Source: Black College Football Hall of Fame announcement, August 18, 2026. Prepared as a reference list for HBCU Gameday editorial use.