



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MINNESOTA FOOTBALL HONORS, MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE BOBBY BELL COLLEGE IMPACT PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – April 9, 2026 – Minnesota Football Honors and the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation are proud to announce this year’s Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year Award winners:

Division I Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year: DL Anthony Smith, University of Minnesota
Division II Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year: QB Jack Strand, Minnesota State Moorhead
Division III Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year: WR Albert Rundell, Bethel University

The Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year Award honors the most impactful Minnesota college football player at the Division I, II and III levels. A winner from each division was selected by a voting committee comprised of board members from the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

“Football in our state has never been stronger and we loved watching Anthony, Jack and Albert each week. They produced on the field and significantly contributed to the success of their teams,” said Todd Fultz, President of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. “We are so thrilled to honor their outstanding achievements during the upcoming Minnesota Football Honors show.”

The following parameters are considered while selecting players for the ballot: First, Second, or Third Team All-American honors, Player of the Year awards and Heisman, Harlon Hill, or John Gagliardi Trophy winners. Qualified nominations are considered as well.

Smith, Strand and Rundell will be honored April 19 during a private awards event at Huntington Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus. The April event will be recorded for the Minnesota Football Honors show, airing later this summer on YouTube and social media, with full broadcast details coming soon.

Here are snapshot biographies for each award winner:

Division I Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year: DL Anthony Smith, University of Minnesota

Anthony Smith was a disruptive and impactful defensive lineman in 2025. Smith started all 13 games for the Gophers, recording 17.5 tackles for loss and a Big Ten-leading 12.5 sacks. The Pennsylvania native became the first Gopher since Karon Riley in 2000 to lead the conference in sacks. Smith earned All-Big Ten First Team (Coaches) and All-Big Ten Second Team (Media) honors for his outstanding play. He was also recognized as an AP Second Team All-Big Ten selection following the 2025 campaign. Smith is set to return for another season with the Gophers in 2026.

Division II Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year: QB Jack Strand, Minnesota State Moorhead

Minnesota State Moorhead quarterback Jack Strand was one of the top players in Division II football. This year, Strand led the NSIC in passing (3,546) and total yardage (3,834) throughout the season. Strand also accounted for 47 total touchdowns and set Minnesota State Moorhead’s single-season record with 42 passing touchdowns. Strand was named

AFCA All-America Second Team (2025), D2CCA All-America First Team (2025), Don Hansen All-America Second Team (2025) and D2Football.com Elite 100/All-America First Team (2025). He also earned D2CCA Super Region 3 Offensive Player of the Year (2025), NSIC Offensive Player of the Year (2023, 2025) and All-NSIC (2023-25) honors. Strand is now Minnesota State Moorhead's career leader in passing completions (1,247), passing yards (13,161), passing touchdowns (126) and total offense (13,216).

Division III Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year: WR Albert Rundell, Bethel University

Bethel wide receiver Albert Rundell became one of the most efficient and productive targets in Division III football. Rundell recorded 122 catches for 1,587 yards and 22 touchdowns during the 2025 season. His 1,587 receiving yards led all levels of college football in 2025. Rundell earned recognition as an AFCA First Team All-American, AP First Team All-American and D3Football.com First Team All-American. The Watertown, Minnesota, native was also named a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy, which is presented to the most outstanding player in Division III football.

Minnesota Football Honors is hosting a show later this summer to honor its high school, college and Minnesota Vikings award winners. Full broadcast details will be announced soon on www.minnesotafotballhonors.com.

To view a statewide map of past and present Minnesota Football Honors Award Winners, [visit this site](#).

About the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation:

The Minnesota Chapter of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to promote amateur football's ability to develop leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit and academic excellence in Minnesota's young people. The Minnesota Chapter recognizes legendary football icons, college football Hall of Famers and Minnesota's top high school and college football scholar athletes. For more information, visit www.nffmn.org, or Facebook ([@MNFootballHonors](#)) and Twitter ([@NFFMN](#)).

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