

Former Buckeyes James Laurinaitis and Chris Ward Named To 2023 College Football Hall Of Fame Ballot



The National Football Foundation on June 6 released the ballot for the 2023 College Football Hall of Fame class, and two former Ohio State players were among those included as candidates.

Linebacker James Laurinaitis (2005-08) returns to the ballot for the fourth time in 2023. He was a two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and won the 2006 Nagurski Trophy and the 2007 Butkus Award. Laurinaitis was also a three-time first-team All-American, earning consensus honors in 2006 and 2008 and a unanimous selection for the 2007 season.

The Buckeyes won four consecutive Big Ten regular-season titles in Laurinaitis' four collegiate seasons. Ohio State also made two trips to the BCS National Championship game in 2006 and 2007, losing to Florida and LSU in those contests.

Offensive tackle Chris Ward (1975-78) makes the Hall of Fame candidate's list for the sixth time in 2023. He was a two-time first-team All-American, with consensus honors in 1976 and a unanimous selection in 1977. Ward was also a three-time first-team All-Big Ten player and helped lead the Buckeyes to four regular-season conference championships during his career.

"It's an enormous honor to just be on the College Football Hall of Fame ballot considering more than 5.54 million people have played college football and only 1,056 players have been inducted," NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell said. "The Hall's requirement of being a First-Team All-American creates a much smaller pool of about 1,500 individuals who are even eligible. Being in today's elite group means an individual is truly among the greatest to have ever played the game, and we look forward to announcing the 2023 College Football Hall of Fame Class early next year."

OHIO STATE PLAYERS IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

PLAYER	POSITION	YEARS	INDUCTED
CHIC HARLEY	HB	1916-17, 19	1951

PLAYER	POSITION	YEARS	INDUCTED
GAYLORD STINCHCOMB	HB	1917-20	1973
WES FESLER	E	1928-30	1954
GOMER JONES	C	1934-35	1978
GUST ZARNAS	G	1935-37	1975
BILL WILLIS	T	1942-44	1971
LES HORVATH	QB	1940-42, 44	1969
WARREN AMLING	G/T	1944-46	1984
JIM DANIEL	T	1939-41	1977
VIC JANOWICZ	HB	1949-51	1976
HOPALONG CASSADY	HB	1952-55	1979
JIM PARKER	G	1943-46	1974
AUREALIUS THOMAS	G	1955-57	1989
ARCHIE GRIFFIN	RB	1972-75	1986
JIM STILLWAGON	MG	1968-70	1991
BOB FERGUSON	FB	1959-61	1996
RANDY GRADISHAR	LB	1971-73	1998
JOHN HICKS	T	1970-73	2001
JACK TATUM	DB	1968-70	2004
JIM HOUSTON	E	1957-58	2005
REX KERN	QB	1968-70	2007
CHRIS SPIELMAN	LB	1984-87	2009
EDDIE GEORGE	RB	1992-95	2012
ORLANDO PACE	LT	1994-96	2014
TOM COUSINEAU	LB	1975-78	2016
KEITH BYARS	RB	1982-85	2020
MIKE DOSS	S	1999-02	2022