ALL-METRO FOOTBALL

UPPER ALL-METRO OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Zachary quarterback Eli Holstein passes against Ponchatoula during the second half of the Class 5A state championship Dec. 11 at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans.

Eli Holstein

ZACHARY

A quarterback goes through progressions while surveying the field from the pocket. For Zachary's Holstein, a different kind of progression was the real game-changer.

The growth and maturity Holstein displayed in his second year as a starter was transformative, as Zachary went 15-0 and won its fourth Class 5A title in seven years.

It also was enough to make Holstein, a Texas A&M commitment, The Advocate's Class 5A/4A offensive player of the year.

"Eli had the type of season we needed for him to have in order to move through the playoffs and win a championship," Zachary coach David Brewerton said. "I was interested to see the progression between his sophomore and junior year.

"The arm talent and size was always there. We had to replace everybody up front and graduated an All-American receiver (Chris Hilton Jr.), and I was interested to see how he handled that. He formed a bond with his receivers, and we saw his the maturation happen in front of us."

The 6-foot-5, 220-pound Holstein was able to showcase all his talents for the Broncos. In addition to passing for 3,228 yards and 30 touchdowns, Holstein rushed for 518 yards and 14 TDs, averaging 7.9 yards per carry.

The Broncos often opted to use him as a runner in short-yardage situations and near the goal line — including the Class 5A title game, when he scored a third-quarter TD in a 28-20 win over Ponchatoula.

Holstein was the District 4-5A and title-game MVP for the unbeaten Broncos.

UPPER ALL-METRO DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Zachary's Kameron Hamilton sacks Ponchatoula quarterback Nolan Tribble during the second half of the Class 5A state on Dec. 11 at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans.

Kameron Hamilton

ZACHARY

Hamilton has a story that goes well beyond physical size and the numbers that made him the District 4-5A Defensive MVP and The Advocate's defensive player of the year.

The 6-foot-4, 275-pound lineman is a Tulane signee who has never let a significant hearing loss limit his play or expectations.

"Kam is over 90% deaf and to watch him grow as a football player and a young man during his three years as a varsity player has been incredible," Zachary coach David Brewerton said. "It is a feel-good story.

"He was very self-conscious and quiet. We got to see him come out that and become not just a great player, but also a team leader. He made plays that were really, really so impressive. Kam had that knack of making plays when we needed them."

Hamilton helped lead a bend-but-don't-break defense that was a driving force behind Zachary's 15-0 record and a fourth LHSAA 5A title in seven years.

How dominant was Hamilton? He finished with 62 solo tackles and 25 assists with an eye-popping 39 tackles for loss, 35 quarterback hurries, nine sacks, three fumble recoveries and two pass breakups.

Hamilton's specialty was flipping the line of scrimmage in the Broncos' favor.

"Kam made a lot of big plays," Brewerton said. "There were so many times when he used his strength to push the other team back two of three yards behind the line. Turning a first-and-10 into a second-and-13 is huge in most games."

UPPER ALL-METRO TEAM OFFENSE

Eli Holstein
QB, 6-5, 220, Jr., Zachary

Kaleb Jackson,
RB, 5-11, 205, Jr., Liberty

Dylan Sampson
RB, 5-9, 180, Sr., Dutchtown

Connor Wisham
RB, 5-11, 180, Sr., Zachary

Charles Robertson
WR, 6-2, 190, Sr., Zachary

Shelton Sampson Jr.
WR, 6-4, 185, Jr., Catholic

Jaylon Henry
WR, 6-0, 180, Sr., Woodlawn

Emery Jones
OL, 6-5, 340, Sr., Catholic

Colin Charlet
OL, 6-0, 220, Sr., Zachary

Roy Brackins III,
OL, 6-3, 300, Jr., Woodlawn

Darrion Dunn
OL, 6-1, 275, Sr., Liberty

Jamall Franklin Jr.
OL, 6-8, 370, Jr., Scotlandville

Landon Carter
PK, 6-0, 160, Jr., Catholic

Rickie Collins
ATH, 6-3, 185, Jr., Woodlawn

UPPER ALL-METRO TEAM DEFENSE

Kameron Hamilton
DL, 6-4, 275, Sr., Zachary

Jermaine Vessell
DL, 6-3, 210, Sr., Catholic

Dylan Carpenter
DL, 6-4, 240, Jr., St. Amant

Colby Williams
DL, 5-10, 250, Sr., Central

Riley Howard
LB, 5-10, 225, Sr., Zachary

Colbi Dennis
LB, 6-1, 210, Sr., Plaquemine

Hayden Rushing
LB, 6-2, 210, Jr., Denham Springs

Jack Massey
LB, 5-11, 185, Sr., Catholic

Kylin Jackson
DB, 6-2, 190, Jr., Zachary

Jordan Matthews
DB, 6-0, 165, Jr., Woodlawn

Joshua Wax
DB, 5-10, 165, Sr., Catholic

Denichlass Jeter
DB, 5-7, 181, Sr., Belaire

Kylan Dupre
P, 6-0, 225, Sr., Catholic

Chance Williams
KR/Flex, 5-10, 175, Sr., Scotlandville

UPPER ALL-METRO COACH OF THE YEAR

David Brewerton

ZACHARY

The Broncos won their fourth Class 5A title over the past seven seasons with a perfect 15-0 record for Brewerton. This latest title also frames Brewerton's accomplishments in eight seasons at Zachary in a historic way. Winning a fourth championship ties Brewerton with the late Kenny Guillot of Parkview Baptist for most titles won by an East Baton Rouge Parish coach in the modern era. Brewerton now has a career record of 149-43 in 14 seasons as a head coach. Though Zachary won its fourth title, the Broncos achieved two notable firsts: The Broncos entered the playoffs as a No. 1 seed, and they ended the regular season at No. 1 in the LSWA's Class 5A poll.