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Bentley's Lupoli, Jr., Named Recipient of New England Football Writers

College Division Season Gold Helmet Award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Bentley University linebacker Salvatore Lupoli, Jr., has been named recipient of the New England Football Writers College Division 2023 Season Gold Helmet award presented annually to the most valuable player in Divisions II and III. The award will be presented at the New England Football Writers Captains and Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 7, at the Sheraton Framingham (Mass.) Hotel and Conference Center.

Lupoli, Jr., a native of Chelmsford, Mass., and a graduate of Chelmsford High School and Phillips Andover Academy, led the Falcons to a 6-4 record and a second-place finish in the Northeast-10 with a 3-2 record for first year head coach Saj Thakkar. Lupoli, Jr., who was recently named the 2023 Most Valuable Player in the Northeast-10 and selected to the NEFW All-New England Team for the second year in a row, set the Bentley record for tackles in a single season with 123. He had 47 solo stops and 76 assisted tackles. Included in those numbers are six sacks and 13 total tackles for losses totaling 55 yards. He also intercepted a pass and had an additional pass break-up. To top that off, he serves as the team's long snapper.

Lupoli, Jr., ranks first in Division II nationally with his total tackles, 12.3 tackles per game and his assisted tackles. As a team, Bentley ranks first nationally in 3rd Down Conversion Defense allowing under a 20% success rate. The Falcons are second nationally in 1st Down Defense allowing just 119 over their 10 games. Bentley opponents passed for only 139 yards per game ranking the Falcons fourth in that category. Their 232.7 yards surrendered per game ranks fifth nationally. In Scoring Defense, Bentley finished sixth allowing only 13.8 points per game. The Falcons Rushing Defense allowed just 93.7 yards per game placing them 17th in the nation in that category.

Lupoli, Jr., is the first defensive player since 2000 to be named the MVP of the Northeast-10. He is the fourth Bentley player to receive the Season Gold Helmet Award joining quarterbacks Mike Rymsha (1995) and Marc Eddy (2003), and wide receiver Dallas Mall (2004).

Any persons wishing to attend the NEFW Banquet can make reservations on-line at <https://newenglandfootballwriters.com/captains-%26-awards-banquet>. Reservations are non-refundable and must be made by Friday, December 1 at 5:00PM.

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