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Yale's Bennett Named Recipient of

New England Football Writers Nason Award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Yale University offensive lineman Michael Bennett has been named recipient of the New England Football Writers Jerry Nason Award presented to the student-athlete in his final year of eligibility who has succeeded in football against all odds. The award will be presented at the New England Football Writers Captains and Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 11, at the Sheraton Framingham (Mass.) Hotel and Conference Center.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., and a graduate of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, Bennett's freshman year with the Eli began in tragedy as his father passed away just before he arrived in New Haven. The oldest of four children, Bennett faced the challenge of leaving his mother and siblings. Traveling nearly 1,000 miles from home, Bennett faced the rigors of beginning an Ivy League education along with competing in his first year of college football while dealing with unimaginable grief. During this time Bennett never lost sight of his purpose to honor his father's memory and set an example through his effort, attitude and perseverance.

Bennett is described as a role model for his teammates, a trait that began in high school when he was awarded a grant for a social venture plan that addressed the lack of accessibility to youth sports due to socioeconomic barriers.

On the field Bennett became a starter on the offensive line in his sophomore year when he earned All-Ivy honorable mentions status. As a junior Bennett earned first-team All-Ivy accolades and prior to his senior season he was a Stats Perform FCS first-team preseason All-America.

Bennett is the second Yale player to be honored by the NEFW with the Nason Award. Casey Gerald was the 2008 recipient. The award has been presented since 1958.

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 5.

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