

SAM ACHO 2010 WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL TROPHY WINNER

Senior DE Sam Acho was named winner of the 21st National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) William V. Campbell Trophy, as college football's top student-athlete in combined academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership. He was announced as the winner at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.

Acho became the second Longhorn in four years to earn the honor, following C Dallas Griffin in 2007 when it was named the Draddy Trophy. He was also the third finalist in four years, including QB Colt McCoy in 2009.

"I'm just honored to be a part of this," Acho said. "Looking back, we had a winner of this award four years ago, Dallas Griffin. He won when I was a freshman and he really inspired me to strive for excellence and to do my best on the field and in the classroom. We have the same major and I really looked to him as a mentor. I wouldn't be here today without him, without my family and the family I've developed at The University of Texas."

"This means so much because of what it represents, the people you meet and the family you become a part of. The Campbell Trophy stands for excellence both on and off the field. I feel that through coach Brown and the entire staff at Texas, and also through the McCombs School of Business, I've really been able to excel both on and off the field."

Finalists earned the honor of being named a NFF Scholar-Athlete and receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship, while the winner earns a \$25,000 scholarship. Overall, Acho became the 11th Longhorn to be named a NFF Scholar-Athlete.

"Sam defines champion in every way, on the field and off the field, which is why he is so deserving of the Campbell Trophy," head coach Mack Brown said. "He works as hard as anybody I've ever been around. He's got great character and values from his family. He gives back to the community, but at the same time, football's very important to him and he's another in the line of great defensive ends we've had who will go on to the NFL. This is a very, very special young man and not many people can live up to all that Sam Acho stands for."

In 2010, Acho was also named the winner of the Wuerffel Award and ARA Sportsmanship Award, an Allstate AFCA Good Works Team member, an ESPN Academic All-America First Team member and a finalist for the Lott IMPACT Trophy and Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. He was also a semifinalist for the Bednarik Award and Lombardi Award. An All-Big 12 First-Team selection, Acho earned a spot on the prestigious 2010 Preseason Playboy All-America team and was on the watch lists for the Nagurski Trophy, Hendricks Award and Outland Trophy.

An honors business major in the prestigious McCombs School of Business, Acho was UT's seventh two-time academic all-American and maintains a 3.55 GPA. He was a two-year member of UT's Student-Athlete Advisory Council and was the choice as UT's representative at the 2009 NCAA Leadership Conference in which one student-athlete from each NCAA school attends. He was the student-athlete representative of the Big 12 on the NCAA Football Issues Committee, and was one of UT's representatives at the Big 12's Conference on Black Student Government. In addition, he has attended the Minority Mentorship Symposium in Austin, which features high-profile leaders, executives and stars from the business, entertainment and music industries speaking on topics that focus on success.

Named one of The Sporting News' "20 Smartest Athletes," Acho went on to earn the NCAA's prestigious Top VIII Award, was a three-time first-team Academic All-Big 12 selection and eight-time UT Athletics Director's Honor Roll member. The past two years, he has been honored with the Arthur Ashe, Jr., Sports Scholarship Award, which is a national award that recognizes minority student-athletes who are committed to both education and athletics. Last year, he completed an internship at Target where he had a marketing idea advance to the level of the CEO.

In April 2010, Acho was inducted into UT's Friar Society, which is the oldest and most prestigious honor society at The University of Texas and recognizes students who have made significant contributions to The University.

Acho saw action in 50 career games (26 starts) and tallied 148 tackles, 23.5 sacks (No. 11 on UT's career list), 37 TFL, 44 pressures, eight PBD, eight forced fumbles and nine fumble recoveries (t-No. 2 on UT's career list).

In 2010, he recorded 59 tackles, 17 TFL, nine sacks, 18 pressures, five forced fumbles and five fumble recoveries. His five fumble recoveries lead the nation this season and are tied the UT single-season record. His five forced fumbles are tied for second nationally and tied for seventh on the UT single-season list.

A 2009 semifinalist for the Lott Trophy, Acho notched 63 tackles, 10 sacks, 14 TFL, 15 pressures, three PBUs, two forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries that season. The four fumble recoveries were tied for the most nationally and tied for third on UT's single-season list.

Acho and his family have made several medical mission trips to his parents' native country of Nigeria. He helped organize a fundraiser in Dallas prior to the 2009 and 2010 trips. Then he, his brother Emmanuel and several teammates traveled to assist his father and approximately 40 doctors by providing medical treatment to Nigerians who may only have access to a doctor once a year. The family hopes to build a permanent clinic in the area soon.

Acho was taken in the fourth round of the 2011 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals. He spent his first four seasons in the league with the team and is now a member of the Chicago Bears.

ACHO'S HONOR ROLL

- 2010 William V. Campbell Trophy Winner
- 2010 Wuerffel Trophy Winner
- 2010 ARA Sportsmanship Award Winner
- 2010 AFCA Good Works Team
- 2010 National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete
- 2010 CFPA Defensive Lineman of the Year
- 2010 Unanimous First-Team All-Big 12
- 2010 Walter Camp Football Foundation Second-Team All-America
- 2010 The Associated Press Third-Team All-America
- Two-time Academic All-American
- Three-time First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- 2010 Lott IMPACT Trophy and Lowe's Senior CLASS Award finalist
- Named 2010 George "Hook" McCullough Team MVP

