



Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards
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A.J. Graham Named 2008 Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Football

Gainesville (Jan. 29) --- Tallahassee Godby senior quarterback A.J. Graham was named the 2008 Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Football following a final round of voting by a statewide panel of high school football coaches and media representatives and will be honored Friday at 9 a.m. at the school's gymnasium.

Graham is the 17th winner of the annual award sponsored by Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association to honor the top high school football player for the 2008 season.

Graham finished the 2008 season completing 244-of-396 passes for 3,870 yards and 38 touchdowns while rushing for 564 yards on 99 attempts and 10 touchdowns .He also punted 18 times for 745 yards, averaging 44.3 yards per punt, as his team advanced to the Class 3A state championship game.

In his career, Graham completed 467-of-769 passes for 7,237 yards and 72 touchdowns, setting school records for attempts, completions, passing yards and touchdowns. He also rushed for 1,123 yards and 19 touchdowns. Graham is currently considering scholarship offers from Clemson, Illinois, Kansas State and Marshall.

"Florida's dairy farmers congratulate A.J. for a job well done and we salute him with a milk toast," said Matt Lussier, a Gainesville area dairy farmer. "We take a lot of pride in watching a winner such as A.J. represent our industry and this award in such a positive manner and we wish him continued success."

Graham, previously named Class 3A Player-of-the-Year, finished with eight first-place votes and 148 points, ahead of Class 6A Player-of-the-Year Eugene Smith of Miramar, who was the runner-up with 137 points. Class 5A Player-of-the-Year Trent Richardson of Pensacola Escambia finished third with 120 points.

The 4A Player-of-the-Year, Aaron Murray of Tampa Plant, finished fourth with 113 points followed by 2B Player-of-the-Year Nu'Keese Richardson of Pahokee (97), 2A Player-of-the-Year Chris Thompson of Madison County (79), 1B Player-of-the-Year Will Powers of Jupiter Christian (72) and 1A Player-of-the-Year Cody Ledford of Tallahassee North Florida Christian with 70 points.

The Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards program exemplifies Dairy Farmers Inc.'s commitment to the state's youth. While honoring the state's top athletes and coaches in all 24 FHSAA-sanctioned sports for the 17th consecutive year, the program also emphasizes to young people the importance of keeping dairy products a primary part of their diet in their overall nutrition plan

2008 Final Voting

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A.J. Graham	8	3	1	1	9	0	0	0	148
Eugene Smith	7	2	2	1	6	4	0	0	137
Trent Richardson	3	2	2	5	9	1	0	0	120
Aaron Murray	3	3	3	1	8	1	1	2	113
Nu'Keese Richardson	1	1	4	0	11	2	3	0	97
Chris Thompson	0	0	0	1	13	7	0	1	79
Will Powers	0	0	0	0	13	4	3	2	72
Cody Ledford	0	1	0	0	10	5	2	4	70

Point totals based on: 1st place (10), 2nd place (7), 3rd place (6), 4th place (5), 5th place (4), 6th place (3), 7th place (2) and 8th place (1).

Mr. Football Winners

1992 - Jammi German, Ft. Myers

1993 - Shevin Wiggins, Bradenton Manatee

1994 - Daunte Culpepper, Ocala Vanguard

1995 - Frankie Franklin, Jacksonville Sandalwood

1996 - Travis Henry, Frostproof

1997 - Zain Gilmore, Tampa Robinson

1998 - Anquan Boldin, Pahokee

1999 - Willie Green, Kissimmee Osceola

2000 - Adrian McPherson, Bradenton Southeast

2001 - Leon Washington, Jacksonville Jackson

2002 - Andre Reese, Pierson Taylor

2003 - Xavier Lee, Daytona Seabreeze

2004 - Antone Smith, Pahokee

2005 – Tim Tebow, Ponte Vedra Nease

2006 – Robert Marve, Tampa Plant

2007 – Jacory Harris, Miami Northwestern

2008 – A.J. Graham, Tallahassee Godby