

2008 Rotary Lombardi Award Winner, Finalists Drafted

Orakpo to Redskins; Bengals Take Two

Brian Orakpo, the winner of the 2008 Rotary Lombardi Award, was the Washington Redskins first round draft choice and number 13 overall pick in Saturday's NFL Draft. The University of Texas defensive end is the first Lombardi honoree to be taken by the Redskins since 2000, when Penn State linebacker LaVar Arrington was the overall number 2 pick.

Grabbing a pair of finalists, the Cincinnati Bengals took their first, Alabama offensive lineman Andre Smith, in the first round at number 6. In round two, the Bengals took USC linebacker Rey Mauluga at number 38. This marks the fifth time in Rotary Lombardi Award history that two honorees were taken by the same team. New England was the first in 1974, taking finalists Rod Shoate and Pete Cusick. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have done it twice, in 1975 with brothers Lee Roy and Dewey Selmon and in 1994, with Warren Sapp and Derrick Brooks. In 1983, Baltimore took finalists Vernon Maxwell and George Achica.

Two-time finalist James Laurinaitis will join fellow 2007 finalist Chris Long as a member of the St. Louis Rams. The Ohio State linebacker, the 17th two-time finalist in Rotary Lombardi Award history, was selected in the second round at pick number 35. The only two-time winner in history, Orlando Pace, was the Rams number one draft pick in 1997. Long was the overall number two pick in the 2008 draft.