AMARION HOBSON SELECTED FOR NFHS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FOR SPORTSMANSHIP



Above: Amarion Hobson with his certificate from the TSSAA. (Photo by Ron Barry)

"He was often outmatched in size, but never in heart."

If ever there was a truer description of Crockett County High School's Amarion Hobson, it has yet to be found.

That line came from Cavalier assistant football coach Josh Holt, but he wasn't the only one proclaiming superlatives after Hobson was selected by the TSSAA to receive one of its highest honors, the prestigious National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Award of Excellence, given to designate remarkable student-athletes who have demonstrated exceptional character and sportsmanship in their athletic pursuits.

"Amarion is one of the best people I have ever coached," said Crockett head coach Kevin Ward.

"Amarion is one of my favorite players of all time," added assistant coach David Barker.

That trio of Cavalier coaches had much more to say about Hobson, a senior who has been playing football "since around the second or third grade," according to the affable CCHS back.

But first, the TSSAA uses this criteria to select its award winners: "Leadership among both the staff and students within our schools is vitally important and is a significant tool in molding the future of our communities and nation.

Leaders who show respect, integrity, and good sportsmanship not only influence their peers but demonstrate values that extend beyond athletics. They contribute to a positive school environment and often become role models that inspire younger students to follow the path of good leadership. We look forward to honoring outstanding student-athletes who embody good sportsmanship and ethical behavior and exude a spirit of fairness and respect."

That's Amarion Hobson in a nutshell, say his coaches.
"Amarion is the perfect example of what a coach is looking for in a player," Barker said. "The intangibles are what makes him great. His gifts are mental toughness, elevated work ethic, and unselfishness. On top of those, he is like a skeleton key on a football field. He can play any position and is willing to do so for his team to be better. In a day where most players or even people are obsessed with only playing the position they want to play, he just wants to win. He gives to his team before himself always. I can't wait to see what his future holds."

Ward had similar platitudes for Hobson.
"Amarion is one of the best people I have ever coached," he said. "I never had any problem with him throughout his four years here. He was an outstanding teammate and was counted on to do multiple things for us throughout his career. He was great with our youth football camps and when he officiated some of our flag football games. The kids always enjoyed being out there with him. He will be a success in whatever he does and will make some community better because he is in it."

Holt completed the accolades.
"Amarion was the heart and soul of our defense," he said. "When we built a game plan, his name went on the board first because that's where the trust was. He was often outmatched in size, but never in heart. Amarion attacked every challenge at full speed with zero excuses. His work ethic and character made everyone around him better, and that's what truly sets him apart. His future is incredibly bright."

That future, according to Hobson, includes attending UT-Martin upon graduation and majoring in biology, in preparation for a career as a Physician's Assistant.

Hobson's versatility was on display all the way through the final playoff game of his senior season. A full-time defensive back, he stepped in when an ankle injury was limiting star running back DK Woods, a Class 4-A All-Stater this year, and rushed for 69 yards on 10 carries against powerful Pearl-Cohn. For the season, Hobson accumulated 191 yards on 22 carries as a runner, but was best known for his hard-hitting tackling ability defensively despite his relatively small size.

Ironically, Hobson's favorite memory on the field involves something he didn't do as a senior: catch a pass.

"My favorite highlight is when I caught the two-point conversion pass that beat North Side in my junior year," he said. Hobson did intercept a pass and recover an opposing fumble as a senior, but stood out more for his sure tackling and his instincts to get to the ball.

Hobson received a certificate from the TSSAA this week and is listed among the honorees on the organization's website as well.



Above: When Amarion Hobson (4) hit you, you knew you'd been hit. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Amarion Hobson's senior senior included this 48-yard touchdown run on a fake punt attempt against Hardin County. (Photo by Ron Barry)