

As the competition narrows for the 2009 Wendy's High School Heisman Award program, 20 of Nebraska's top scholar-athletes were announced Oct. 20 as state finalists.

Over 50,000 seniors applied nationwide and from that group, 10,848 school winners were selected. The 20 Nebraska state finalists were chosen from these winners.

These finalists embody the Heisman spirit of hard work and dedication through their outstanding achievements in athletics, academics and community/school leadership.

Mackenzie Hite of Perkins County High School was among the finalists.

Just as the collegiate Heisman is known for being the most prestigious award in college football, the Wendy's High School Heisman, now in its 16th year, is one of the most prestigious awards at the high school level.

Twenty of Nebraska's top scholar-athletes are now in the running to become state winners of The 2009 Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

On Nov. 7, one male and one female from Nebraska will be named state winners, and will go on to compete for the national winner title in New York City on Dec. 11.

National finalists will be featured during a televised ceremony on ESPN2, and will receive a gold medal and \$2,000 award for their high schools.

One male and one female national winner will receive a Wendy's High School Heisman trophy and Wendy's will donate \$10,000 to each winner's respective high school.

Additionally, the winners will be recognized during the collegiate Heisman Trophy broadcast on ESPN, Dec.12.