

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Media Contact:** Burt Trembly  
**Phone:** 702.622.2275  
[Burt@PolynesianFootballHOF.org](mailto:Burt@PolynesianFootballHOF.org)

## **POLYNESIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2018 POLYNESIAN BOWL AND FIRST PLAYER COMMITMENTS**

---

**Honolulu, HI** (January 19, 2017) – The **Polynesian Football Hall of Fame** officially announced today a date for the 2018 **Polynesian Bowl**, a premier high school all-star football game that features the world’s elite players of Polynesian heritage and other ancestries. The game will be played on Saturday, January 20 at Aloha Stadium on O’ahu, Hawai’i as part of the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend.

A total of 90 nationally ranked players will be selected to participate in the game. Seventy-five percent will be of Polynesian ancestry and 25 percent from other ancestries. Several have already accepted invitations, including: Five-Star QB **Jacob Sirmon** from Bothell, WA, a member of the ESPN300; Five-Star LB **Palaie Gaoteote** from Las Vegas, NV, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star DE **Tennessee Pututau** from Salt Lake City, UT, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star LB **Merlin Roberson** from Gardena, CA, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star LB **Solomon Tuliaupupu** from Claremont, CA, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star DT **Tommy Togia** from Pocatello, ID, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star OT **Penei Sewell** from St. George, UT, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star ATH **Talanoa Hufanga** from Corvallis, OR, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star LB **Salua Masina** from Salt Lake City, UT, a member of the ESPN300; Four-Star DT **Tuli Letuligasenoa** from Concord, CA and Four-Star OG **Hunter Lotulelei** from Salt Lake City, UT.

Two of Hawai’i’s top rated players have also been selected, including: LB **Kana’i Mauga** (Waianae, HI) and DE **Samson Reed** (Kahuku, HI).

Another commit is 6-foot 10-inch, 390 pound OT **Daniel Faalele** from Melbourne, Australia, who is now playing at IMG Academy in Florida.

“The Polynesian Bowl is the greatest all-star high school football game in Hawai’i history and already among the best in the world,” said Chairman and Co-Founder **Jesse Sapolu**, a four-time Super Bowl Champion with the San Francisco 49ers. “This is our game, which celebrates our state, our culture and our Polynesian youth.”

Each player receives travel and accommodations to Hawai’i, lodging, meals, ground transportation, top of the line apparel, and equipment including a Riddell helmet and will participate in Polynesian cultural and educational activities throughout game week.

“The Polynesian Bowl provides a bridge between all cultures to learn more about Polynesia,” said Vice-Chairman and Co-Founder **Ma’a Tanuvasa**, a two-time Super Bowl Champion with the Denver Broncos. “This is what makes our game unique and special.”



## 2018 POLYNESIAN BOWL PLAYER COMMITMENTS

LAST NAME	FIRST	POS	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	COLLEGE COMMITMENT	POLYNESIAN ANCESTRY	ESPN 300	24/7 SPORTS	rivals250	SCOUT 300
FAALELE	DANIEL	OT	IMG Academy	Melbourne, AUS	Undeclared	Samoan/Tongan	#41 4 ★	#15 5 ★	#24 4 ★	#11 4 ★
GAOTEOTE	PALAI	OLB	Bishop Gorman	Las Vegas, NV	Undeclared	Samoan	#293 3 ★	#170 4 ★	#121 4 ★	#127 4 ★
HUFANGA	TALANO	ATH	Crescent Valley	Corvallis, OR	Undeclared	Tongan	NR	#103 4 ★	#94 4 ★	#90 4 ★
LETULIGASENOA	TULI	DT	De La Salle	Concord, CA	Undeclared	Samoan	NR	3 ★	4 ★	3 ★
LOTULELEI	HUNTER	OG	Highland	Salt Lake City, UT	Undeclared	Tongan	#298 3 ★	#202 4 ★	#184 4 ★	#144 4 ★
MASINA	SALUA	OLB	Brighton	Salt Lake City, UT	Undeclared	Samoan	NR	3 ★	3 ★	3 ★
MAUGA	KANA'I	OLB	Waianae	Waianae, HI	Undeclared	Tongan	#160 4 ★	#186 4 ★	#214 4 ★	#190 4 ★
PUTUTAU	TENNESSEE	DE	Cottonwood	Salt Lake City, UT	Undeclared	Hawaiian/Samoan	NR	3 ★	3 ★	3 ★
REED	SAMSON	DE	Kahuku	Kahuku, HI	Undeclared	Samoan	#164 4 ★	#114 4 ★	#128 4 ★	#96 4 ★
ROBERSON	MERLIN	OLB	Junipero Serra	Gardena, CA	Undeclared	Samoan	#234 4 ★	#83 4 ★	#57 4 ★	#51 4 ★
SEWELL	PENEI	OT	Desert Springs	Saint George, UT	Undeclared	n/a	#16 4 ★	#22 5 ★	#62 4 ★	#40 4 ★
SIRMON	JACOB	QB	Bothell	Bothell, WA	Washington	Samoan	#215 4 ★	#122 4 ★	#178 4 ★	#137 4 ★
TOGIAI	TOMMY	DT	Highland	Pocatello, ID	Undeclared	Samoan	#209 4 ★	#64 4 ★	#43 4 ★	#36 4
TULIAUPUPU	SOLOMON	OLB	Claremont	Claremont, CA	Undeclared	Samoan				

### ABOUT THE INAUGURAL POLYNESIAN BOWL

The Polynesian Bowl features the world's elite high school players of Polynesian heritage and other ancestries. Tennessee Titans QB **Marcus Mariota** (TEAM MARIOTA) and Baltimore Ravens OT **Ronnie Stanley** (TEAM STANLEY) serve as team captains. Polynesian Football Hall of Fame Inductees **Jack "The Throwin' Samoan" Thompson** and **Olin Kreutz** serve as honorary head coaches. **June Jones** and **Dick Tomey** serve as head coaches. For more information, visit [www.PolynesianBowl.com](http://www.PolynesianBowl.com).

### ABOUT THE POLYNESIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The Polynesian Football Hall of Fame honors Polynesia's greatest players, coaches and contributors. It also serves as a resource for Polynesian football history, provides academic scholarships and supports educational programs for Polynesian youth. Its permanent home is located at the Polynesian Cultural Center (O'ahu's North Shore) and was established in 2013 by Super Bowl Champions **Jesse Sapolu** and **Ma'a Tanuvasa**. Other board members include **Troy Polamalu**, **Vai Sikahema**, **June Jones** and **Reno Mahe**. For more information, visit [www.PolynesianFootballHOF.org](http://www.PolynesianFootballHOF.org).

###