

## FOOTBALL



CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## CLASS 8A-6A OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## Guenson Alexis

Atlantic senior completed 80 percent of his passes, accounted for 22 TDs

BY ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

With spring football canceled and the fall season delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, Guenson Alexis had some extra free time.

The Atlantic senior quarterback entered his senior year looking to improve vastly on his junior season. He spent the time diligently conditioning and watching film.

“During the pandemic time, it was free time,” Alexis said. “In my free time, I just went to the field, worked out, went over plays — I didn’t know them as well last year. ... [I] just stayed committed and did what I needed to get done so I could perform better on the field.” The work paid off.

Alexis developed into one of South Florida’s most dynamic playmakers. The senior completed 102 of 127 passes (an 80 percent completion percentage) for 1,086 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also ran for 250 yards and 10 touchdowns on 20 carries. As a result of his dominant season, Alexis is the Sun

Sentinel Palm Beach County Class 8A-6A offensive player of the year.

Alexis and the Eagles’ season got off to an iffy start. A likely blowout victory against West Boca Raton was postponed with Atlantic up 14-0, and then the Eagles fell to TRU Prep Academy 33-10.

“After the TRU Prep game, I was kind of upset, so you know, I just made my mind up to lock in and just perform and do my job,” Alexis said.

From there, Alexis and his team were nothing short of dominant. Atlantic reeled off five straight victories, beating opponents by a combined score of 259-46. In a 68-0 blowout win against Palm Beach Lakes, Alexis accounted for seven touch-

downs — four on the ground and three through the air.

Alexis’ superb play continued in the postseason, as Atlantic advanced to the Tri-County Class 7A gold-level finals. In the title game against Plantation, Alexis threw for 171 yards and added 68 rushing yards. He had three touchdowns: two passing and one rushing.

As a late-blooming high school prospect, Alexis is still exploring his college options. But Atlantic coach T.J. Jackson thinks a college program could be getting a steal if they signed his quarterback.

“I think he’s a hidden gem,” Jackson said. “Hopefully, someone offers him [a scholarship].”

## CLASS 8A-6A OFFENSE

## FIRST TEAM

**Silas Barron, Seminole Ridge, Sr., OL:** Barron was a key player on the Hawks’ offensive line this season. A two-year starter, Barron led the way as a center.

**Jason Bradley, Boca Raton, Sr., WR:** Bradley wrapped up his senior year with 414 receiving yards and eight touchdowns on 17 catches. He also had 13 tackles and an interception on defense.

**Emonte Brown, Jupiter, So., RB:** Brown had a breakout season, averaging more than 9 yards per carry. Brown rushed for 704 yards and scored 10 TDs on 76 carries.

**Tyler Burke, Atlantic, Sr., WR:** Burke was a premier wide receiver for Atlantic, catching 45 passes for 716 yards and eight touchdowns. He also carried the ball eight times for 220 yards, scoring twice. On special teams, he was a deep threat, racking up 396 kick-return yards and 615 punt-return yards, scoring once on kick returns and once on punt returns.

**Jonah Dixon, Park Vista, Sr., OL:** Dixon anchored the offensive line for a run-oriented Cobras team that finished the regular season 3-1 and made the tri-county playoff Gold bracket before their season ended due to COVID-19.

**Jalen Jeter, Forest Hill, Sr., QB:** Jeter made plays with his arm and his legs as a senior, completing 32 of 56 passes (a 57 percent completion percentage) for 701 yards and six touchdowns. He also ran for 505 yards and six scores on 73 carries.

**Montahj Joseph, Atlantic, Sr., RB:** Joseph was a playmaker out of the Eagles’ backfield. He rushed for 712 yards on 75 carries and scored eight rushing touchdowns. He also caught 20 passes for 275 yards and a pair of scores.

**Antonio Outler, Palm Beach Lakes, Sr., RB:** Although the Rams struggled this season, Outler still had a solid senior campaign. He rushed for 441 yards and five scores in four games.

**Dezmond Penn, Atlantic, Jr., OL:** Penn was an anchor for the Eagles on the offensive line as Atlantic rolled to a Class 7A tri-county championship.

**Xavier Scott, Dwyer, Sr., ATH:** Scott was a jack-of-all-trades for the Panthers. He ran the ball 10 times for 121 yards and two touchdowns. He caught 13 passes for 239 yards and another three touchdowns. He added 109 kickoff-return yards and had a touchdown. On defense, he had 17 tackles and four pass deflections.

**Tre’Von Taylor, Dwyer, Sr., QB:** Taylor was one of Palm Beach County’s premier offensive threats. A first-team All-County pick for the second year in a row, Taylor completed 66 of 96 passes (a 69 percent completion percentage) for 1,230 yards and 13 touchdowns. Taylor ran the ball 46 times for 210 yards and four touchdowns.

**Cody Wasielewski, Royal Palm Beach, Jr., WR:** Wasielewski had a breakout junior year, racking up 476 receiving yards and six touchdown receptions on 21 catches. He had more than 700 all-purpose yards.

—Adam Lichtenstein



SUSAN STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## CLASS 8A-6A DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## Ashton Gillotte

Boca Raton senior led defense with 55 tackles, 10 sacks in seven games

BY ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

Ashton Gillotte did everything he could to make sure his team would win his last high school football game.

In the Class 8A tri-county silver-level title game, that meant playing out of his normal position.

“[I just wanted to be] an asset to my team in as many ways as I can,” Gillotte said.

Typically a defensive end, Gillotte lined up in the Bobcats’ goal-line package and punched in three touchdowns as the Boca Raton beat Palm Beach Gardens 24-17. He also had six tackles, two sacks, and a tackle for a

loss in the win. “They really just couldn’t stop it, and my linemen really put in work and opened up holes,” Gillotte said.

Gillotte had five total touchdowns running the ball for the Bobcats, but he

made his biggest contributions at his true position on defense. Gillotte finished the season with 55 tackles, 10 sacks and nine tackles for loss in seven games. For his stellar season, he is the Sun Sentinel’s Class 8A-6A Palm Beach County defensive player of the year.

Before the Bobcats played the Gators for the silver-level title, Gillotte had one of his best games of the year against Coral Gables. The senior defensive end had 10 tackles, three sacks, three tackles for loss on defense. He scored a 5-yard rushing touchdown and blocked a kick.

“It’s a nice cherry on top to close out my high school career,” Gillotte said. “It sucks that we couldn’t compete in the actual state tournament, but Tri-County will do just fine.”

The Boca Raton standout, who was a Super II pick and the No. 1 senior in Palm Beach County entering the season, is taking his talents to Louisville next season. Gillotte is rated a three-star prospect and the No. 72 weak-side defensive end in the country.

“Just (looking forward to) being in college,” Gillotte said. “It’s a different level of play. I get to start my degree and my career on two levels.”

## CLASS 8A-6A DEFENSE

## FIRST TEAM

**Vincent Dubose, Palm Beach Gardens, Jr., LB:** Dubose led the Gators with 58 tackles and 19 tackles for loss. Dubose also forced four fumbles.

**Lorvens Florestal, Atlantic, Sr., LB:** Florestal had a dominant year for the Eagles, making 41 tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 15 sacks.

**Donovan Hoillette, Palm Beach Central, Sr., LB:** Hoillette only had the opportunity to play in four games with the Broncos this season, but he made the most of it. He racked up 26 tackles, seven tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks, five pass deflections and a fumble recovery in those four games.

**Elijah Hopkins, Dwyer, So., DB:** Hopkins was a disruptive player in the secondary, hauling in three interceptions and scoring a defensive touchdown. He also had 10 catches for 213 yards and four offensive touchdowns.

**Caden Ingram, Dwyer, Jr., LB:** Ingram was a strong defender for Dwyer, making 35 tackles and seven tackles for loss. He added two sacks.

**Marquis Lymon, Atlantic, Jr., DB:** Lymon proved his dominant sophomore year was no fluke, making 30 tackles, picking off five passes and forcing a pair of fumbles. He also had 400 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 22 carries.

**Jeremiah McClendon, Atlantic, Sr., DB:** McClendon finished his career with a strong season, making 42 tackles and picking off seven passes. He also forced a fumble.

**Dom Presto, Palm Beach Gardens, Sr., LB:** Presto finished the season second on the Gators with 48 total tackles and 15 tackles for loss. He led the team with three interceptions and had one sack and one fumble recovery. He also rushed for 92 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

**Nygil Shannon, Atlantic, Sr., LB:** Shannon had a strong senior year, racking up 72 tackles and making 13 tackles for loss. He had six sacks, three interceptions and two forced fumbles.

**Eric Singleton, Royal Palm Beach, Sr., DB:** Singleton had 25 tackles, four interceptions and six pass deflections, playing a key role in the Wildcats’ secondary.

**Zyin Thomas, Atlantic, Sr., DL:** Thomas was a dominant force on the Eagles’ defensive line, making 36 tackles and 12 tackles for loss. He had three sacks and three forced fumbles.

**Antoine Williams, Atlantic, Sr., LB:** Along with fellow first-teasers Lorvens Florestal and Nygil Shannon, Williams helped form a dominant linebacker corps. He had 55 tackles, 12 sacks, eight tackles for loss, an interception and a forced fumble.

—Adam Lichtenstein