

College Sports

LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey was awarded the Lombardi Trophy Wednesday at the Hilton Americas.
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Humble Tiger brings home Lombardi Trophy

Decision to stay pays off in end for for LSU's Dorsey

By MOISEKAPENDA BOWER
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As he limped to the sideline at Tiger Stadium on Oct. 20, it would have been easy for LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey to regret his decision to return for his senior season.

A vicious chop block from an Auburn lineman left Dorsey favoring his right knee, and in that instant, Dorsey appeared separated from the millions he bypassed resisting the urge to enter the 2007 NFL Draft.

For Dorsey, a lucrative pro career seemed in jeopardy.

Seven weeks later, that brush with disaster is but a distant memory. Dorsey recovered ably enough to lead LSU to an SEC title, doing so with such aplomb that his stellar play netted him the 38th Rotary Lombardi Award on Wednesday night at the Hilton Americas.

"That experience was a humbling experience because it made me realize it can be taken away from me in the blink of an eye," Dorsey said. "I tried to keep on pushing and make the best of what happened, and the way it's ended up, I'm real grateful and thankful."

Dorsey, who earlier on Wednesday was named SEC Defensive Player of the Year, added the Lombardi Award, which recognizes the nation's top college lineman, to the Nagurski Trophy (top defensive player) he claimed Monday. Dorsey became the first LSU player to win the Lombardi, beating out Ohio State junior linebacker James Laurinaitis, Michigan senior offensive tackle Jake Long and Virginia defensive end Chris Long.

Through 13 games, Dorsey ranks third at LSU in tackles with 64, has added six sacks, 11 1/2 tackles for losses, four quarterback hurries and three passes defended. The second-ranked Tigers (11-2) will face No. 1 Ohio State (11-1) in the BCS title game Jan. 7.

Dorsey would have been a first-round selection had he declared for the draft last spring. Instead, he earned what he called his Heisman Trophy to further validate his decision.

"This is two times better than I could have imagined," Dorsey said. "Last year, making the decision to come back to school, I had no idea that it would be like this. I'm really enjoying it and just taking it all in, because I know I can't take anything for granted."

Said LSU coach Les Miles: "There are a lot of guys who think, 'It's about me, it's about my senior year and it's not about the team.' But that's not him. That's never been him."

The passion with which Dorsey plays is apparent for all to see, even those who shared the dais with him. Dorsey has earned the respect of his teammates, his coach and his peers.

"He's a senior leader, a kid that came back for his senior season for his team and passed up a lot of money," Laurinaitis said. "He'll get a lot of money still this year. I think he's cherishing that decision even though he got dinged up a little bit. His team has a chance at a national title and he's getting these awards, and he deserves it because he's a heck of a player and a good person."

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