

## **Spotlight in the stands: NFL Fan of the Year Award**

By Carisma Briscoe

Every year the NFL awards the ones in the stands instead of on the field.

One fan who's nominated and voted for by fellow supporters is presented with the Fan of the Year award at the NFL honors each season after the nominations and voting processes are completed.

Each of the 32 NFL teams has their own fan of the year, and from those 32 winners, the overall NFL fan of the year is selected.

Fans, friends, and family can nominate anyone they deem worthy of the award and typically start online campaigns to raise awareness for the nominee to gain votes.

"This contest is very special to the NFL as we continually look to recognize the dedicated fans who bring incredible energy to the game through their love of football and have been a positive influence and rallying force across their family, friends and community. These fans dedicate time to use their fandom for good, and we want to recognize and celebrate them as a thank you." said the NFL award officials in a written response.

An example of using their fandom for good as previously mentioned, is the fundraising done by former NFL Fan of the Year winner 2024, Tom Grossi.

"It was honestly such a sincere experience. I had no idea that fans nominated me. It was after we raised over \$500k for St. Jude for 30in30 and to be shown that kind of love from the audience was truly special. After being nominated, the fact that people took time out of their day to vote and advocate for me to win is incredibly humbling and I'll never forget it." Said Grossi.

The 30 in 30 challenge was a series on Tom's YouTube channel where he documented himself visiting all 30 NFL stadiums in 30 days, and on every video was a link for viewers to donate to the St. Jude children's research hospital.

Tom also raved about the most recent winner Megan Stefanski who represented the Detroit Lions fan base, as she also raised over \$30,000 for local charities in her area.

Stefanski shared her experience as the most recent winner and why she thinks it's important to continue honoring a new fan every year with this award.

"Winning NFL Fan of the Year 2025 was unbelievable. I couldn't believe I was chosen out of all the other amazing 31 individuals. I think it's important that the NFL continues the program because it shines light on great fans and their charitable contributions." said Stefanski.

According to the winners, they were awarded with a trip to the Superbowl, a trophy, and even perks like complimentary flights to make it to all of their favorite team's away games.

This year's voting process took place on September 29, and the winner won't be announced until February 2026 when the next NFL honors award ceremony is held.

Now that the fan votes are in, the NFL Fan of the Year organizers say it is now up to several internal panels of league executives to contribute to declaring an overall winner.