

It's Ike

Ray Guy 2013
PRO KICKER.com

High School All-Americans

Story by **Mark Maynard** / ProkickerNews.com Senior Writer

Prokicker.com made a snap decision on selecting its third National Player of the Year.

Three-time Prokicker.com All-American long-snapper **Ike Powell**, who recently committed to Auburn, becomes the first long-snapper to receive the honor.

"This is such a huge deal for me," Powell said. "Ever since I started going to Prokicker, being ranked high was a goal of mine. It has been since I started snapping. Being given this honor shows I've really accomplished something big."

Powell, who is 6-foot-3 and 265 pounds, is a tactician when snapping the football. He started long-snapping with one hand as a seventh-grader and then learned the correct techniques during a two-day Prokicker.com camp. Powell became a Prokicker.com camp regular while honing that skill.

He also played offensive tackle for Tift County High School in Tifton, Ga., and has received numerous state honors, including All-Area this season.

"When people asked me where I learned to snap, I always tell them it started with Prokicker," he said. "I've been to all the other camps but my foundation came with Prokicker's coaches, Jacob Claycomb and Ben Fuller. I learned so much from them about the proper techniques. Prokicker is where I learned how to snap. No camp teaches the fundamentals better and (camp director) Rick (Sang) is awesome. He cares about you and wants you to do things the right way."

Powell attended his first Prokicker.com camp before his eighth-grade year. He became a regular participant at the camps and has been a runner-up (2011) and national champion (2012) at the Prokicker.com National Championships. He immediately was on Prokicker.com's radar as a long-snapper and was named a second-team All-American after his sophomore season at Tift County. He was a first-team selection in 2012 and, of course, in 2013.

Powell was a first-team All Region 1-6A Offensive Tackle and was also recognized as a Semper Fidelis All-American. In high school he was a three-year starter at either center or tackle and also long-snapper. He also was the special teams captain and had the team's highest senior grade point average.

Powell works hard at his long-snapping talents, including putting balls through targets in his back yard. He is also an outstanding student who takes a full load of accelerated classes. Last year he committed to Vanderbilt but after coach James Franklin left for Penn State, he reopened the recruiting door to Auburn, last year's national runner-up. Franklin also offered Powell a scholarship to Penn State. Florida State had earlier offered a full-ride scholarship



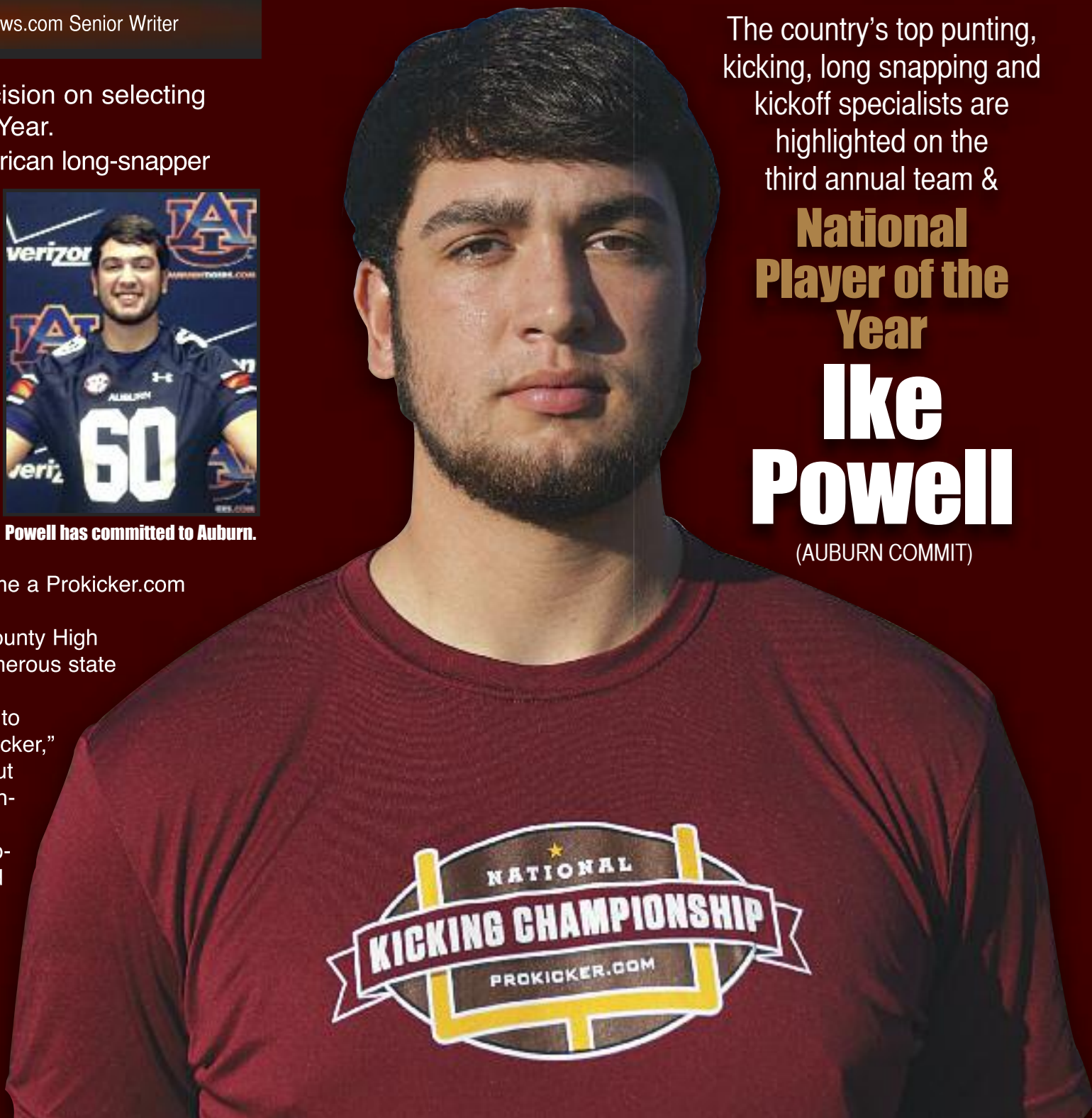
Powell has committed to Auburn.

The country's top punting, kicking, long snapping and kickoff specialists are highlighted on the third annual team &

**National
Player of the
Year**

**Ike
Powell**

(AUBURN COMMIT)



"This is such a huge deal for me. Being given this honor shows I've really accomplished something big."

—Auburn commit Ike Powell on his Prokicker.com Player of the Year honor



to Powell.

He didn't have any bad snaps on punts, extra points or field goals in his last two years at Tift County.

Powell, an outstanding student, is already setting his sights on Auburn. "I'm really excited to see what's going to happen at Auburn," he said. "They're telling me they want me to come in and compete. No matter what, they'll have the best guy on the field. If I don't get the starting spot, I'm going to redshirt."

THE NATION'S TOP KICKERS, PUNTERS AND LONG SNAPPERS

First-Team

Bryan Kirsche

Punter (6-1, 155, sr.)
Out of Door Academy (Fla.)

Rodrigo Blankenship

Kicker (6-1, 180, jr.)
Sprayberry High (Ga.)

Ike Powell

Long snapper (6-3, 250, sr.)
Tift County High (Ga.)

A.J. Wells

Combo (6-1, 186, sr.)
Marion County High (Ga.)

Justin Yoon

KO specialist (5-11, 180, jr.)
Milton Academy (Tenn.)

Second-Team

Simon Laryea

Punter (tie) (6-2, 210, sr.)
Chaparral High (Ariz.)

Ian Shannon

Punter (tie) (6-4, 190, jr.)
Marietta High (Ga.)

Justin Yoon

Kicker (5-11, 180, jr.)
Milton Academy (Tenn.)

Jeremiah Theus

Long snapper (tie) (6-4, 250, jr.)
The Bolles School (Fla.)

Marcus Moeller

KO specialist (6-5, 190, sr.)
Cornerstone Charter Acad. (Fla.)

Ian Shannon

Combo (6-4, 190, jr.)
Marietta High (Ga.)

Third-Team

A.J. Wells

Punter & kicker (6-1, 186, sr.)
Marion County High (Ga.)

Ivy Wall

Punter & combo (5-10, 145, jr.)
Oak Forest Academy (La.)

Sam York

Long snapper (6-1, 217, sr.)
Marblehead High (Ma.)

Matthew White

Combo (6-0, 165, sr.)
Mars Area High (Pa.)

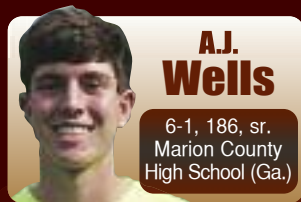
Garrison Schwartz

KO Specialist (6-1, 200, sr.)
Desert Vista High (Ariz.)

Bryce Crawford

KO Specialist (6-4, 220, jr.)
Frisco Heritage High (Tex.)

FIRST-TEAM SELECTIONS



A.J. Wells

6-1, 186, sr.
Marion County High School (Ga.)

Kicker-Punter Combo

A senior from Marion County High School (Marion, Ga.), **A.J. Wells** had the kind of games punters dream about in his last game, which happened to be the Georgia Class A championship game.

Wells was named the game's MVP – as a punter – after punting five balls inside the 20, including one that set up a safety to put his team ahead 5-3 in an eventual 12-3 victory over Charlton County.

Three of his punts were inside the 10 and one was pinned on the 2-yard line. Wells also kicked a field goal and extra point.

Charlton Coach Rick McWhorter said after the game, "Coaches all over the state say you can beat Marion, but you can't beat their kicker."

It was the first state championship in school history.

During the season, he boomed 61 kicks for touchbacks and averaged 40.65 per punt. He also made 11 of 17 field goals with a long of 47 yards. Wells kicked multiple game-winners, including one in the state quarterfinals of a 24-21 victory.

Wells is enrolled at Middle Tennessee and expects to compete for the starting job as punter in spring practice.



Ike Powell

6-3, 250, sr.
Tift County High School (Ga.)

Long Snapper

A three-time Prokicker All-American and the 2014 National Player of the Year **Ike Powell** will be long-snapping for Auburn.

He will be a preferred walk-on with the Tigers, who snatched him up after former Vanderbilt Coach James Franklin went to Penn State.

Powell was sold on Franklin but decommitted to Vanderbilt after the move. He had maintained a strong relationship with Auburn, which offered him either grayshirt or preferred walk-on status.

Powell, who has been with Prokicker since before his eighth-grade year, is the top-ranked long-snapper in the rankings and a 2012 national champion. He was also runner-up for the national championship in 2011.

Powell also played offensive tackle for Tift County High School in Tifton, Ga., and has received numerous state and area honors for his line play.

He credits his snapping technique, however, to Prokicker. "When people asked me where I learned how to snap, I always tell them it started with Prokicker."



Rodrigo Blankenship

6-1, 180, jr.
Sprayberry High School (Ga.)

Kicker

An underclassman among the first-team selections, **Rodrigo Blankenship** proved to be a weapon either kicking or punting.

In the Georgia Junior Bowl at Grady Stadium in downtown Atlanta on Dec. 31, 2013, Blankenship connected on three field goals (from 38, 33 and 42 yards), had a pair of 70-yard kickoffs that resulted in touchbacks, perfectly executed a self-recovery onside kick and also set up a safety with a coffin-corner punt to the six-yard line as the West rolled to a 38-7 victory.

"It's a really big honor to be an All-American," he said. "Prokicker is one of the best services in the nation. To be an All-American at all is a big honor, but to be first-team is special. I'm a year ahead of schedule and blessed to be recognized."

Blankenship was a third-team selection as a sophomore.

During the high school season at Sprayberry High School in Georgia he had career bests in total points (73), field goals made (14), and field goals attempted (23). He also had 45 touchbacks.

Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi State have expressed interest.



Bryan Kirsche

6-1, 155, sr.
Out of Door Academy (Fla.)

Punter

Few could put a jolt in a punt like **Bryan Kirsche**, a senior from Out of Door Academy in Sarasota, Fla.

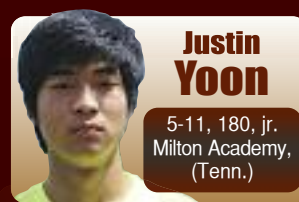
Kirsche had 56 punts for a 49.1 average with an average hang time of 4.78. But he credits Prokicker with "getting my name out there." He has been the organization's top-ranked punter for two years.

"Being ranked No. 1 for the past two years has really made schools know I'm not just some random person calling," he said. "Prokicker has stats on the website. It's not just a ranking; it has stats to prove it."

He attended a camp that included NFL All-Pro punter Brandon Fields of the Miami Dolphins, another advantage to being in the Prokicker.com family. "That helped a lot, talking to him," Kirsche said. "He was awesome."

Kirsche, who grew up playing soccer as a goalie, says football has become a passion. He also kicked off for Out of Door Academy and put 87 percent of his kickoffs into the end zone, he said.

"This is a really big honor and I appreciate all that Prokicker has done and is still doing for my career," he said.



Justin Yoon

5-11, 180, jr.
Milton Academy, (Tenn.)

Kickoff Specialist

The junior from Milton Academy, Tenn., with the big leg proved it again this fall.

Eighty-percent of **Justin Yoon's** kickoffs went for touchbacks.

Over two years, he missed only two extra points and was 18-of-24 on field goal attempts.

Yoon was first-team All-American as kickoff specialist and second-team as kicker.

"I love kicking," he said. "Kickoff is probably my main strength. I felt pretty satisfied with the way I kicked off this year."

Yoon was a good reason why Milton Academy finished with an 8-1 record and won its conference. He has been with Prokicker.com since his development years. That's why he treasures the All-America selection.

"It's not as high as college or the NFL but getting the honor to be an All-American as a kicker is an amazing thing," Yoon said. "Not many people get to say that. I hope it helps me become a better kicker."

Yoon, who is outstanding in the classroom as well, has his sights on going to Stanford. "My top choice is definitely Stanford," he said.

SECOND-TEAM

Justin Yoon

Kicker (5-11, 180, junior)
Milton Academy (Tenn.)

Ian Shannon

Combo (6-4, 190, junior)
Marietta High School (Ga.)

Jeremiah Theus

Long snapper (6-4, 250, junior)
The Bolles School (Fla.)

Marcus Moeller

Kickoff Specialist (6-5, 190, senior)
Cornerstone Charter (Fla.)

Simon Laryea

Punter (tie) (6-2, 210, senior)
Chaparral High School (Ariz.)

Ian Shannon

Punter (tie) (6-4, 190, junior)
Marietta High School (Ga.)

THIRD-TEAM

A.J. Wells

Punter (tie); Kicker (6-1, 186, senior)
Marion County High School (Ga.)

Ivy Wall

Punter (tie); Combo (tie) (5-10, 145, junior)
Oak Forest Academy (La.)

Sam York

Long Snapper (6-1, 217, senior)
Marblehead High School (Ma.)

Matthew White

Combo (tie) (6-0, 165, senior)
Mars Area High School (Pa.)

Garrison Schwartz

KO Specialist (tie) (6-1, 200, senior)
Desert Vista High School (Ariz.)

Bryce Crawford

KO Specialist (tie) (6-4, 220, junior)
Frisco Heritage High School (Tex.)

HONORABLE MENTION

KICKERS

Craig Ford, Hahnville (La.), 2014
Dylan Scheurich, Haynes Academy (La.), 2014
Trey Tully, Plainview High School (Okla.), 2014
Zachary Alexander, West Monroe High School (La.), 2014
Bryce Crawford, Frisco Heritage High (Tex.), 2015
Marcus Moeller, Cornerstone Charter Academy (Fla.), 2014
Daniel O'Brien, Windermere Preparatory School (Fla.), 2014
Tyler Pack, Johnson Central High School (Ky.), 2016
Ian Shannon, Marietta High School (Ga.), 2015
Garrison Schwartz, Desert Vista High School (Ariz.), 2014
Gary Wunderlich, Memphis University School (Tenn.), 2014

LONG SNAPPERS

Drew Edgar, Madison Central High School (Miss.), 2014
Austin Reeves, Manatee High School (Fla.), 2014
C.J. Keller, Brophy College Prep (Ariz.), 2014
Robert Emory Norred, Baylor (Tenn.), 2014
Matt Brannau, Harriton High School (Penn.), 2014
Joseph Rabuffo, North Attleborough High School (Ma.), 2014
Jacob Lang, Pickerington HS Central (Ohio), 2014
Turner Bernard, Mountain Ridge High School (Ariz.), 2016
Zach O'Connor, Frontier High School (N.Y.), 2015
Jay Zier, Orcas Island High School (Wash.), 2015
Dustin Nickle, Webb School of Knoxville (Tenn.), 2015
Michael Brands, St. Paul's High School (La.), 2015

PUNTERS

Hunter Lent, Western Alamance High School (N.C.), 2015
Matthew White, Mars Area High School (Pa.), 2014
Dominic DiBenedetto, Deerfield High School (Ill.), 2014
Kyle Reighard, Salem High School (Va.), 2015
Jim Speights, Brandon High School (Miss.), 2014
Charles McGugan, Grayson High School (Ga.), 2015
Connor Dudas, Ringgold High School (Penn.), 2014

KICKER/PUNTER COMBO

Rodrigo Blankenship, Sprayberry High School (Ga.), 2015
Marcus Moeller, Cornerstone Charter Academy (Fla.), 2014
Francis Palmer, Trinity-Pawling (N.Y.), 2014
Craig Ford, Hahnville, (La.), 2014
Bryce Crawford, Frisco Heritage (Tex.), 2015

KICKOFF SPECIALISTS

Rodrigo Blankenship, Sprayberry High School (Ga.), 2015
Tyler Pack, Johnson Central High School (Ky.), 2016
Dylan Scheurich, Haynes Academy (La.), 2014
Marcus Moeller, Cornerstone Charter Academy (Fla.), 2014
Patrick Woods, Pine Forest High School (N.C.), 2014
Trey Tully, Plainview High School (Okla.), 2014
Eric Autry, Parkview High School (Ga.), 2015
Lucas Ruiz Diaz, Montrose High (Colo.), 2016
Connor Culp, Desert Vista High School (Ariz.), 2016
Evan O'Hara, Boone County High School (Ky.), 2014
Zachary Alexander, West Monroe High School (La.), 2014
AJ Wells, Marion County Middle/High School (Ga.), 2014
Craig Ford, Hahnville (La.), 2014