

PLAYMAKER

of the month



Alfonzo Lambert

Alfonzo Lambert is a redshirt junior on the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) football team. Lambert is an outstanding student-athlete on and off the field, and he has made a positive impact on the lives of young people in the Waterloo, IA area. Lambert's personal experience with being mentored has impressed him to use his platform as a student-athlete to make a change in the lives of our youth, especially young men of color.

"I've been fortunate to have so many positive role models . . . I hope to someday open a Community Center in my hometown, Rockford, Illinois, just to give kids the opportunity to truly reach their goals and potential." Lambert has already begun the task of helping kids realize their potential. He regularly volunteers as a Youth Mentor and Program Coordinator with the Leaders Of Tomorrow Program. Lambert develops and implements lesson plans for middle school students focused on positive decision-making, confidence building, and building strong, healthy relationships. He also serves as a Youth Mentor in the Waterloo Juvenile Court Services. "It's so important to me to help young men of color get out of the system or avoid ever getting into the system altogether." Lambert also is a volunteer youth mentor at the Hail Mary Project in Waterloo, IA.

Lambert is also an excellent student leader at UNI. He is a member of the Minority Student-Athlete Leadership Team. This team uses guest speakers and other activities to encourage multicultural student-athletes and to strengthen the student-athlete community on campus. Lambert also serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Currently, Lambert is creating a new student organization in the College of Business entitled, "Leadership and Management

Association," with a focus on service projects, guest speakers, and development activities from a leadership perspective.



Heaven Burton

Heaven Burton is a redshirt junior on the Texas Tech University (TTU) softball team. She is an outstanding athlete on the field, but she is just as phenomenal in the classroom and within the community. She is a natural leader on her team and on her campus. Burton was a member of the group that led the initiative to start a branch of the Special Olympics at TTU. She helped with the Special Olympics as an activity coordinator, assisting Special Olympic athletes throughout the experience, helped promote activities, and she was a regular cheerleader for the bowling, softball, and basketball competitions.

Burton's other leadership activities include being a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and the Texas Tech Public Relations Society of America. As a SAAC member, Burton is the External Relations and Community Outreach Chair. Within this capacity, she helps TTU student-athletes find volunteer opportunities, speaks at monthly meetings about community service opportunities, and led the initiative to collect items for the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian. "Heaven created a program to have all TTU teams compete against one another to motivate them to donate more items and the team with the largest donation received a prize."

Burton also spends a lot of volunteer time in the Lubbock community. She volunteers at local elementary schools, Fellowship Christian Athletes activities, food banks, and spending time with a particular brain cancer patient, Scout. Burton is a Public Relations major carrying a 3.2 GPA.