

Hall of Fame Nominee: Landry Jones

Matthew Landry Jones, born April 4, 1989, in Artesia, New Mexico, is an American former professional football player whose extraordinary achievements in athletics have brought immense honor to the State of New Mexico. From his dominant high school career to his record-setting collegiate tenure and his time in the NFL, Jones consistently demonstrated exceptional talent, leadership, and a remarkable ability to perform at the highest levels of competitive football.

Sports Involved:

- **Football:** Quarterback

Most Outstanding Achievements/Accomplishments in Athletics/Sports:

High School Accomplishments (Artesia High School, Artesia, NM):

- **2006:** Led Artesia High School to a Class 4A state championship.
- **2007:** Led Artesia High School to a second consecutive Class 4A state championship, defeating Goddard High School. In the championship game, he threw for 325 yards and a school-record seven touchdowns. For the season, he threw for 3,433 yards and 45 touchdowns with zero interceptions.
- **2007:** Named New Mexico's Class 4A Player of the Year.
- **2007:** Finalist for the Joe Montana Quarterback of the Year Award.
- **Overall High School Career:** Threw for a combined 7,013 yards and 89 touchdowns, leading his team to two consecutive state titles.
- **2008:** Recognized as the highest-ranked recruit to ever come out of New Mexico by Scout.com (four-star, sixth-rated quarterback), Rivals.com (four-star, sixth-rated pro-style quarterback), and 247 Sports (five-star).

College Accomplishments (University of Oklahoma Sooners):

- **2009 Season:**
 - Became the starting quarterback after Sam Bradford's injury.
 - In his second start, threw a Sooner-record six touchdown passes against Tulsa.
 - Named AT&T All-America Player of the Week.
 - Led the Sooners to a 2009 Sun Bowl victory against Stanford, with his best passing performance of the year (418 yards and 3 touchdown passes).
 - Led all freshmen nationally with 26 TD passes and 3,198 passing yards, surpassing Sam Bradford's freshman passing yards mark.
- **2010 Season:**
 - Won the Sammy Baugh Trophy, awarded to the nation's outstanding collegiate passer.
 - Named Second-team All-Big 12.
 - Led Oklahoma to a comeback 23-20 victory in the Big 12 Championship Game against Nebraska.

- Carried his team to a lopsided 48-20 victory over Connecticut in the Fiesta Bowl, breaking Oklahoma's BCS bowl losing streak and securing the program's first BCS bowl win since 2002.
- **2012 Season:**
 - Named Second-team All-Big 12.
 - Led the Sooners to a 10-2 overall record and a share of the Big 12 Conference Championship with Kansas State.
 - Concluded his collegiate career as Oklahoma's all-time career leader in passing yards (16,646), passing yards per game (314.1), pass attempts (2,184), pass completions (1,388), 300-yard games (27), 400-yard games (12), and touchdown passes (123).
 - His 16,646 career passing yards and 16,271 total yards are the highest career totals in Big 12 Conference history.
 - Finished his collegiate career with a remarkable 39-11 (.780) record as a starter, marking the most victories in Oklahoma Sooners school history.
- **2012:** Named NM Sports Hall of Fame Athlete of the Year for College.

Professional Accomplishments (NFL & XFL):

- **2013:** Selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the fourth round (115th pick overall) of the 2013 NFL Draft.
- **2015:** Made his NFL debut for the Pittsburgh Steelers, replacing an injured Michael Vick, and led the Steelers to a 25-13 comeback win against the Arizona Cardinals, throwing for 168 yards and two touchdowns.
- **2016:** Started the season finale for the Steelers, leading them to a 27-24 overtime victory over the Cleveland Browns, completing 24-of-37 passes for 277 yards and three touchdowns. This included the game-winning touchdown pass to Cobi Hamilton.
- **2019:** Became the first player to sign with the revived XFL, joining the Dallas Renegades and reuniting with his college coach Bob Stoops.
- **2020:** Returned from injury in Week 2 of the XFL season, throwing for 305 yards in a 25-18 victory over the Los Angeles Wildcats.

Landry Jones's remarkable journey from Artesia, New Mexico, to a record-setting college career and a stint in professional football, underscores his exceptional dedication and skill. His two state championships in high school, his numerous records and bowl game victories at the University of Oklahoma, and his moments of success in the NFL and XFL have undoubtedly brought extraordinary recognition and honor to the State of New Mexico.