



VARI*LITE

VARI-LITE VL5LED DAZZLES WITH COLOR AND EFFECTS AT THE GREATER CLEVELAND SPORTS AWARDS

The 2022 Greater Cleveland Sports Awards took place at the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse arena, in front of a live audience and was filmed for streaming. NFL legend Joe Thomas stepped out to lead the ceremony, which was staged to honor athletic achievement in Ohio. Lighting director Derek Hons, from NPiAV, specified Vari-Lite VL5LED and VL2600 SERIES luminaires to fill the cavernous space with colorful washes, key light and effects.

“I have been a part of this event for 15 years, so I knew the flow of the show very well,” says Hons. “In terms of design, timing, familiarity and execution were important factors in laying out the plot and how the fixtures would be used. I knew the VL2600 WASHES would be great for keys and fills for the stage, the VL2600 PROFILES would be used for scenic, décor, effects and the VL5LED would be used for audience lighting and effects. The VL2600 WASH fixtures provided plenty of brightness for the stage and looked great on camera – with their barndoors we were able to manipulate where we wanted light and where we didn’t.”

The VL5LED luminaires were rigged on trusses that were dedicated to lighting the audience and providing moving and dimmer effects for presenters and award winners. “The VL5LEDs did a great job of subtle color variance - their brightness is surprisingly great and they have continued the traditional great look of the VL5 and VL500,” says Hons.

The VL2600 WASH fixtures were rigged from trusses surrounding the stage at roughly a 32’ throw, and the VL2600

PROFILE luminaires were used to lay texture over the main audience. “With the gobo selection offered by the VL2600 PROFILES, it was an easy fit,” Hons continues. “As presenters entered, texture would change, as well as color, and these fixtures were the main source of movement to provide dynamic looks for the well-known Cleveland Area Presenters and Award winners alike. The VL2600 WASH fixtures were chosen because of their brightness, weight, and flexibility of having barndoors to be our key and fill lights.”

Being staged in the round presented some challenges. “Having even lighting for the stage in these situations can be troubling, however with the flat, even field of the VL2600 WASH as well as control of the barndoor feature, the challenge was met and exceeded expectations,” says Hons. “The main success of this design was being able to successfully direct attention to where it was needed - simple effects to celebrate a winner, even and color-corrected lighting for the camera, letting the online viewers see those that were celebrated as well as the in-person audience reaction.”

A host of big names showed up to celebrate or present awards, including New York Jets defender Justin Hardee, former Ohio State Buckeyes head coach Jim Tressel and former NFL player Ted Ginn Jr., who was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 23rd Greater Cleveland Sport Awards is available to stream via their Website. ■



PRODUCTS FEATURED:

VL5LED WASH
VL2600 WASH
VL2600 PROFILE

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LIGHTING APPLICATION:
TOURING AND EVENTS