

FOR RELEASE

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Drake's Jacob Bacon named PFL Scholar-Athlete of the Year, leads 27th Annual Academic All-PFL Teams

ST. LOUIS, Mo.— Drake senior offensive lineman Jacob Bacon was named the 2019 Pioneer Football League Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Wednesday, leading a group of 50 student-athletes named to the 27th Academic All-PFL Teams, as selected by the league's athletics communications directors.

Bacon, of Hastings, Minnesota, is enrolled in Drake's Masters of Business Administration program this fall, concentrating in business analytics, after graduating in the spring with a bachelor's degree in actuarial science and finance with a 3.93 grade-point average. In addition, to being named the league's Scholar-Athlete of the Year, was named to the league's Academic All-PFL First Team for the third consecutive year.

The College Sports Information Directors of America recognized Bacon as an Academic All-American®, as a first-team honoree in 2018. He is a nominee for the 2019 Academic All-America Team®, which be announced this week.

On the field, Bacon is a two-time honorable mention All-PFL honoree after leading Drake to its third consecutive second place league finish. This season, he started 10 of 11 games, helping protect freshman quarterback Ian Corwin and the Drake running backs corps, led by Drew Lauer, who combined to rush for 1,608 combined yards and 17 touchdowns.

In the community, Bacon has been an active volunteer for the Bulldogs football program, including work with Meals from the Heartland, in the Des Moines' Elementary Schools Reading and Mentoring program and with the local wheelchair basketball league.

Stetson redshirt junior kicker Jonny Messina joins Bacon as a three-time First-Team Academic All-PFL selection. That duo highlights a group of seven PFL student-athletes to earn a repeat First-Team Academic All-PFL honor this season.

The five first-team honorees earning their second Academic-All-PFL honor this season are Jacksonville redshirt junior offensive lineman Dane Cordell, Drake redshirt senior wide receiver Steven Doran, Drake redshirt senior offensive lineman Isaiah Kent-Schneider, Dayton senior safety Tim Simon and Butler senior kicker Drew Bevelhimer.

The Academic All-PFL teams are a complement to the Academic All-America™ program presented by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Eight PFL student-athletes were named to their respective Academic All-District Teams® this fall.

Pioneer Football League athletic directors established the Academic All-PFL squads in 1993 as a way to recognize the league's outstanding student-athletes. To be eligible for Academic All-PFL consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, reached his second season academically and played at least one full season at his current institution.

(more)

2019 PFL Scholar-Athlete of the Year Jacob Bacon, Drake

2019 Academic All-Pioneer Football League First Team

(as selected by PFL athletics communications directors)

Student-Athlete	School	Class.	Pos	Major (Minor)
OFFENSE				
Jacob Bacon (3x, 1)	Drake	Sr.	OL	Masters Of Business Administration
Jake Chisholm	Dayton	So.	RB	Pre-Med
Dane Cordell (1)	Jacksonville	RJr.	OL	Accounting
Gaven Defilippo	Stetson	Grad.	QB	B.A. Professional Sales & Sport Business M.B.A.
Steven Doran (1)	Drake	RSr.	WR	Astronomy And Physics
Wesley Dugger	Davidson	Jr.	RB	Undeclared
Andrew Flanagan	Jacksonville	RFr.	OL	Biology
Isaiah Kent-Schneider (1)	Drake	RSr.	OL	Masters Of Stem Education
Reid Sinnett	San Diego	RSr.	QB	Finance
Alex Spadone	San Diego	Jr.	WR	Accountancy
Ethan Steinbacher	Davidson	Sr.	OL	Computer Sciences
DEFENSE				
Cameron Barrett	Morehead State	Jr.	DL	Marketing
Grant Dixon (2)	Marist	RJr.	LB	Business Administration
Brandon Easterling	Dayton	Jr.	SAF	Management Information Systems
Jack Griffith (2)	Marist	RJr.	DB	Communication
George Hatalowich	Davidson	Sr.	LB	Economics
Ethan Hull	Jacksonville	RFr.	LB	Finance
Victor Jergens	Drake	Sr.	DL	Finance
Kama Kamaka	San Diego	Jr.	LB	Accountancy
Andrew McElroy (2)	Marist	Grad.	DB	B.A. Business Administration M.B.A.
Danny Morales	Drake	RFr.	DB	Health Sciences Clinical Applied
Tim Simon (1)	Dayton	Sr.	SAF	Mechanical Engineering
SPECIAL TEAMS				
Drew Bevelhimer (1)	Butler	Sr.	K	Spanish
Jonny Messina (3x, 1)	Stetson	RJr.	K	Health Science
Allen Waltz	Dayton	Jr.	P	Computer Engineering

Notes in parentheses: 3x – player is a three-time first-team Academic All-PFL selection; 1-was a first-team selection in 2018; 2-was a second-team selection in 2018.

2019 Academic All-Pioneer Football League Second Team

Student-Athlete	School	Class	Pos.	Major (Minor)
OFFENSE				
Bradley Alexander	Stetson	Jr.	OL	History & Microbiology
Kyle Cartales	Valparaiso	Sr.	RB	Chemistry
Devin Cates	Drake	RSr.	TE	Psychology
Hunter Folsom	Jacksonville	RFr.	OL	Mechanical Engineering
Logan Langemeier	Jacksonville	So.	OL	Finance
Nick Lucas	Butler	RSo.	OL	Accounting
Cam Marriott	Morehead State	So.	OL	Political Science
Brandon Micale	San Diego	Jr.	RB	Electrical Engineering
Tyler Phelps	Davidson	Jr.	QB	Economics
Nate Rusk	Butler	RFr.	WR	Health
Ryan Skibinski	Dayton	Sr.	WR	Finance
DEFENSE				
Justin Benvie	Morehead State	So.	LB	Business
Anthony Best	Dayton	So.	LB	Engineering
Michael Dunn	Butler	RFr.	DL	Finance
Jeffrey Lu	Stetson	So.	DL	Microbiology & Applied Mathematics
Nate Obringer	Dayton	So.	DL	Finance & Entrepreneurship
Michael Scarsella	Valparaiso	So.	DB	Mechanical Engineering
Luke Sennett	Butler	RSr.	SAF	Finance & Marketing
Seth Thompson	Marist	RJr.	DB	Biomedical Sciences
Matt Thomson	Marist	RJr.	LB	Political Science
Nick Turner	Valparaiso	RSr.	DB	M.B.A.
Jason Winston	Stetson	RSo.	DE	Political Science Major
SPECIAL TEAMS				
Kyle Butz	Dayton	Sr.	RS	Sport Management
Connor Wilson	Stetson	So.	FB	Aquatic Biology
Colin Wray	Stetson	So.	LS	Sports Business