

October 7, 2019

Shaq Bond of Utah State, Jake Luton of Oregon State and Frazier Daniel of the University of Mount Union Named 2019 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award Nominees

ROCHESTER, Minn.—The College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), in association with The Associated Press (AP) and the Fiesta Bowl Organization, have selected three college football student-athletes— **Shaq Bond** of Utah State, **Jake Luton** of Oregon State and **Frazier Daniel** of the University of Mount Union—as nominees for the **2019 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award**.

Ten times during the 2019 college football season, three inspiring student-athletes from all levels of college football, who have overcome injury, illness or other challenges, will be recognized as **Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Nominees** by a panel of writers, editors and sports information directors from CoSIDA, AP and *Touchdown Illustrated*. CoSIDA members can nominate student-athletes at <u>Comeback-Player.com</u>.

Previous nominees are: Ashton Antwine (Northeastern State), Kaleb Barker (Troy), Jamieson Craske (Stetson), Aaron Crawford (UNC), Jonathan Haden (UAB), Jaquan Hemphill (Hardin-Simmons), Josh Paschal (Kentucky), Isaiah Pola-Mao (USC), CJ Sanders (SMU), Amadeo West (Army), Octavion Wilson (Salisbury), Antoine Winfield Jr. (Minnesota).

At the end of the season, three of the nominees will be chosen as **Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award** winners and will be recognized at a special ceremony during the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. Additionally, \$30,000 will be donated in the names of the nine student-athletes selected as finalists to their school's general scholarship fund, with \$15,000 being awarded in the names of the three winners and \$15,000 on behalf of the six named honorable mention.

For more details, follow on social media at @ComebackPlayrFB and #MayoClinicCPOY, or visit <u>www.Comeback-Player.com</u>. Here's a look at this week's nominees:

Shaq Bond, a defensive back for Utah State has provided a huge lift to the defense after missing the final five games of 2018 with a torn ACL. In helping lead the Aggies to a 3-2 start, the 5'-10" 185-lb Decatur, Ill. native has recorded 29 tackles, three pass break-ups and a 48-yard interception returned for a touchdown in the Aggies historic win versus San Diego State.

Jake Luton, the starting quarterback for Oregon State was taken off the field on a stretcher after sustaining a serious neck injury in week four of the 2017 season causing him to miss the remainder of the year. He returned in 2018 to earn the starting job but, in the first game he suffered an ankle injury that would limit him all season. Through the first five games this year, the senior from the Marysville, Wash. has completed 100 of 161 passes with 14 touchdowns and remarkably no interceptions. His streak of 166 consecutive passes without an interception leads the nation. In the Beavers two wins versus Cal-Poly and UCLA, he's passed for a combined 540 yard and nine touchdowns.

Frazier Daniel, an offensive lineman for Mount Union was slated to be a starter on the Purple Raiders offensive line in 2018 until a broken ankle in August ended his season. The 6'2" 305-lb senior from Tiffin, Ohio has been a force for the nation's number two ranked team in Division III by helping lead them to 527.5 yards per game and 206-points scored during their 4-0 start.

"We understand how challenging it can be for student-athletes to return from injury or illness," says Dr. Michael Stuart, co-director for Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine. "We are honored to be part of this award that recognizes qualities like motivation, determination and perseverance."

About Mayo Clinic: Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit comprehensive organization committed to clinical practice, education and research, providing expert comprehensive care to everyone who needs healing. <u>Learn more about Mayo Clinic</u>. <u>Visit the Mayo Clinic News Network</u>.

About CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America): CoSIDA was founded in 1957 and is a 3,000+ member national organization comprised of the sports public relations, media relations and communications/information professionals throughout all levels of collegiate athletics in the United States and Canada. The organization is the second oldest management association in intercollegiate athletics. To learn more, visit <u>cosida.com</u>.

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