



JOE MOORE AWARD ANNOUNCES 2019 MIDSEASON HONOR ROLL

Twenty-Four O-Line Units Gain Attention of Voting Committee

NEW YORK (Oct. 22, 2019) — The Joe Moore Award for the Most Outstanding Offensive Line Unit in College Football today revealed the members of its 2019 Midseason Honor Roll, announced The Foundation for Teamwork, which has presented the unique award since 2015.

Earning a spot on this year's midseason honor roll are the O-lines of Alabama, Air Force, Appalachian State, Army, Baylor, Boston College, Charlotte, Clemson, Duke, Georgia, Kansas State, Kentucky, Louisiana, LSU, Missouri, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Oregon, Penn State, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

This year's honor roll members represent eight conferences and two independents (in alphabetical order): **ACC (3), BIG TEN (3), BIG-12 (4), CUSA (1), MWC (2), PAC-12 (2), SEC (5), SUN BELT (2),** and **Army and Notre Dame**. For games played through Oct. 19, teams on this year's honor roll had a combined record of 154-20 and includes twelve ranked teams, eight of which are in the Top Ten of the AP Poll.*

These units have gained the attention of the Joe Moore Award voting committee as it moves closer to announcing the selection of semifinalists on Nov. 19 and finalists on Dec. 10. Selection of the 2019 Joe Moore Award winner will be made public after a surprise visit to the winning university's campus in late December.

“The O-line units on the 2019 Midseason Honor Roll have caught the attention of the committee, through the October 12 weekend by demonstrating some or all of the award criteria in a recognizable way,” said Cole Cubelic, chairman of the Joe Moore Award voting committee. “The bar will raise significantly from here, and the consistency required to earn further recognition will be how the elite units eventually separate themselves.”

“It's been an interesting year for development, and having depth or staying healthy appear to be critical already,” said Aaron Taylor, CBS college football analyst and founder of the Joe Moore Award. Taylor played guard at the University of Notre Dame for the award's namesake, the legendary offensive line coach Joe Moore. “October and November have historically proven to be when the elite units separate themselves, and I know we're all looking forward to seeing some ‘Joe Moore Moments’ down the stretch in what we call the ‘Gotta Have It’ situations. Those moments are the critical third and fourth-down and short yardage, red zone or goal-line plays that often separate the good from the great.”

Units of Interest

In addition to the O-line units listed above, committee members also took note of the play and production of **Memphis, Michigan, Minnesota, SMU, and Utah**.

2019 Midseason Honor Roll at a Glance

#1 Alabama (7-0)

- Crimson Tide O-line has paved the way for 513.4 yards per game of total offense, good for ninth in the country.
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - This group has overcome multiple new faces in new places and grown each week. The physicality seems to be a part of who they are.. Don't let the numbers fool you with the execution of this group. RT brings it."

Air Force (5-2)

- Air Force leads the MW and ranks second nationally in rushing (304.6)
- Air Force leads the nation in fewest sacks allowed with three
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - "Tough, physical unit that regularly exceeds their physical limitations required at the academy. They run off the football as well as any unit I've seen. Not intimidated by anyone, and its not a gimmicky unit. They drive defenders off of the ball and occasionally finish when given the chance."

#21 Appalachian State (6-0)

- App State's offensive line has ranked in the top 25 nationally in both rushing yards per game and fewest sacks allowed in each of the last five years.
- The Mountaineers are currently 18th nationally in rushing yards per game (232.7) and 15th in fewest sacks allowed (eight).
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - "This is a "must watch" unit. They consistently display many of the award criteria that we look for, with their technique, physicality and effort being the pillars of their success. Their O-line is a huge reason why Appalachian State is undefeated."

Army (3-4)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - "Not having the year that they expected, but Army's teamwork, consistency and effort really stand out on tape. They may not be the biggest or even most athletic, but they've shown up every week and compete. They won me over with their effort vs Michigan up in Ann Arbor. Impressive."

#14 Baylor (7-0)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - "Cohesive unit that relies heavily on double team and work-up blocks. Very consistent with footwork and to stay hip-to-hip. Natural timing when releasing up to second level targets. They work as one and their consistent approach has been a catalyst for their surprising jump into the Top 20 this year, in my opinion."

Boston College (4-3)

- BC leads the nation with 0.43 sacks allowed per game in 2019. The Eagles are sixth nationally in rushing with 278.3 rushing yards per game.
- The Eagles OL paved the way for 429 yards in their 45-24 win over NC State. Prior to that game, NC State had only given up 400 rushing yards all season long.
- What the Committee is Saying:
 - “No elite talent but extremely consistent fundamentals, especially on gap scheme runs. Center Alec Lindstrom sets the tone for this unit with his high effort and desire to finish.”

Charlotte (2-5)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Hidden gem. A true “Easter Egg” as we like to say. Technically sound, physical, and look to finish across the board. Really play as a unit, especially on combo blocks and double teams. Throw the record out. Clemson tape was a thing of beauty. Some of their better defenders got a rude awakening. Lots of side orders [of pancakes].”

#4 Clemson (7-0)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Most physical Clemson unit in years. Love to set the tone with superior toughness and finish while playing with great communication and technique. You can see it. Love watching the uncovered man in pass protection “look for work” and hunt up a big hit on DL. #PassProIsNotPassive with this group. On track to be one of 2019’s better units.”

Duke (4-3)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “The most improved unit in the ACC despite adding two freshmen at tackle. Effort, toughness, and finish stand out on tape. Not content with just getting good push on base blocks or double teams, their goal is to drive the defender into the ground. Have become one of the top performing units in the ACC.”

#10 Georgia (6-1)

- Leads the SEC and is ranked third nationally allowing just 0.57 sacks/game (four for -20 in seven games).
- Second in the SEC and 14th nationally in Rushing Offense at 236.9 yards/game for an offense that features the SEC’s top ranked running back with 760 yards on 110 attempts (6.8 yards/carry) through seven games (107.4 yards/game).
- Has started a combination of seven players because of injuries during the season and still has helped accumulate 471.3 yards/game to be top three in the SEC and top 20 nationally.
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Fun to watch because they can batter you with power or beat you with hustle and footwork with their outside zone game. They are well-coached

and play with desired demeanor. Been an up and down year due to injuries, but you can see physicality from multiple positions on almost every drive. Very well coached unit, but the shuffling of the deck chairs has taken its expected toll on production.”

Kansas State (4-2)

- oWhat The Committee Is Saying:
- o“They are asked run a variety of run game concepts and they are adept at it. They do a nice job of coming out of their stance with the same steps and rhythm and they play with solid determination. Dancing bears. Looked very promising early on in the year.”

Kentucky (3-4)

- Three players have rushed for more than 300 yards and the team is on pace for a fourth consecutive season of more than 2,000 rushing yards.
- The Wildcats have done this despite missing three departed starting linemen from a year ago, the school’s all-time leading rusher from last season, and this year’s top three quarterbacks are all injured – two are out for the season – and the current starting QB is a converted wide receiver.
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “You can tell this is a coachable bunch. They all do a very good job of working their feet into position to get blocks sealed and hand placement has clearly been drilled into them because they are good at it.”

Louisiana Ragin’ Cajuns (5-2)

- What The Committee Is saying:
 - "Louisiana may be the most physical G5 school unit we have seen on film. They come off the ball and combo block and double team with bad intentions. They seek and destroy when getting out in space on screens and they show that #PassProIsNotPassive! Louisiana has been a pleasant surprise and I predict they will have a couple of guys drafted from their unit next spring.”

#2 LSU (7-0)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “They rose to the occasion and set a physical tone vs Florida. Even their TE 81 brought it. Dude played angry. Possessed. It was beautiful. Good combos up to backers. Really liked their sustain at LOS (line of scrimmage). More NFL style where it was “maintain and sustain” versus blowing guys off, but it got job done vs very good Gator front. I’m a buyer.”

Missouri (5-2)

- Mizzou’s offensive line is fifth in the SEC, allowing just 1.86 sacks per game this season. Over the past four years, Mizzou has allowed just 53 total sacks in 45 total games.
- Mizzou is also 39th this year in rushing offense at 192 yards per game and 34th in total offense at 448.4 yards per game behind its stout offensive line.
- What The Committee Is Saying:

- “This unit showed promise early by working well together, never leaving one guy hanging. Solid in pass pro & aggressive enough in play action to keep it effective. They displayed finish in pass pro which allowed their mobile QB time to ad lib. Have battled through some injuries and haven’t fully come together like it would if they were healthy.”

#8 Notre Dame (5-1)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “After a slow start, getting better every week. Offense put the game in their hands to seal the deal on the ground down the stretch vs USC. Center Jarret Patterson has improved greatly since his first start against Louisville, while RT Robert Hainsey is playing the best football of his ND career.”

#3 Ohio State (7-0)

- The Ohio State OL unit has had 175 knockdowns through 7 games this season.
- Ohio State Offense is 3rd in the country in total rushing yards per game, averaging 287.1 yards per game and 2,010 yards in 7 games.
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Tough unit with some movement skill, but seem to be most happy when they’re engaged in a fist-fight at the point of attack. They love to find the intimidating and finishing opportunities.”

#5 Oklahoma (7-0)

- The Sooners rank fourth nationally by allowing just 0.7 sacks per game (five sacks in seven contests).
- Oklahoma ranks first nationally (among teams attempting at least 12 passes per game) with its 12.6 yards per pass attempt (next highest average is 10.9) and with its 7.4 yards per rush (next highest average is 6.9).
- OU is averaging a nation-leading 9.6 yards per offensive play, which is nearly two yards more than the team with the next-highest average (LSU at 7.9).
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “It’s a testament to their coaching that Oklahoma is even back on our radar after losing four guys to the NFL. Injuries and lineup changes have obviously taken a toll. They have the ability to move defenders off the ball with decent power, but what stands out is their consistent use of hands and their improving technique as the season progresses.”

#11 Oregon (6-1)

- Oregon’s offensive line leads the nation with 188 combined starts along the offensive line.
- Gotta Have It: With the game on the line against Washington, Oregon relied heavily upon their O-line. The Ducks called 6 consecutive runs for forty-five of the seventy-yard touchdown drive to take what would become the game winning 35-31 lead.
- Oregon offensive linemen have won four of the eight Pac-12 Offensive Lineman of the Week awards this season.

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “A physically imposing unit that dominates the line of scrimmage. They are technically sound with no mental errors and play extremely well as a unit. This unit will put the team on their back, as we saw last weekend vs UW.”

#6 Penn State (7-0)

- Penn State’s offensive line has helped three different runners rush for 100 or more yards in a game this season (Noah Cain [2], Journey Brown, Devyn Ford).
- No. 10 in FBS in scoring offense (40.0) and fourth in the Big Ten in total offense (439.3).
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Where this unit is now compared to recent years is admirable. Night and day. Run off the football and work to sustain. You can tell it matters to them. Pass off stunts well and keep shoulders square and hips on same level. Not overly powerful, but will battle and compete. Don’t shrink. Its clear they’re trusted in ‘Gotta Have It’ moments.”

#15 Texas (5-2)

- UT’s o-line has paved the way for the offense to convert 55.8% of third downs this season, No. 2 nationally and tops in the Big 12. No other Big 12 offense is converting above 50% this season.
- Despite significant injuries at the RB position, the Longhorns have rushed for more than 200 yards three times and have had three 100-yard rushers behind the OL..
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Play with toughness and grit. Run game was challenged early due to injuries at RB. Talent level ranges from average to very good with their starters, but the end result is sustainable. The quarterback has the same dirt-dog mentality as the O-line which helps the offense get tough yards. Not always pretty, but always respectable.”

Washington (5-3)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “A unit led by their left tackle and center. Their hands and feet are in the right place and they work to finish. Become more impressed with this group by the week. Well coached unit and consistently getting better. Lots of scouts looking into their C and RT, and deservedly so.”

#13 Wisconsin (6-1)

- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Wisconsin is so fun to watch. Blue collar work horses. Recently they’ve either been big and physical but a bit stiff, or athletic and lacked some push and finish. This year they’re both...and have what it takes to earn this award, IMO.”

Wyoming (5-2)

- The Cowboys rank No. 15 in the nation in rushing offense in 2019, averaging 236.7 yards per game.
- Wyoming's offense is ranked No. 10 in the nation in fewest sacks allowed, giving up an average only 1.00 sack per game (only seven total sacks allowed) for the 2019 season.
- What The Committee Is Saying:
 - “Was really impressed when I first turned their Missouri tape on. Contact power, balance, sustain, and finishing. They were up to task and took it to them. Really set the tone. OL played a huge role in the upset. Fundamentally sound. Lost their LG Eric Abojei vs SDSU and he was their alpha dog. Deserving group.”

Honor Roll Criteria and Selection Process

The Joe Moore Award voting committee judges solely on six criteria: toughness, effort, teamwork, consistency, technique and finishing.

Evaluations for the midseason honor roll were made solely through weekly review of actual game film and offensive line coach-provided cut-ups on the DragonFly Division I Network. In addition, Stats Perform (formerly STATS Inc.), one of the industry leaders in AI and sports data analytics, provides advanced O-line data and analytics to provide context and clarity and to help streamline the film evaluation process.

Voting Committee

The Joe Moore Award voting committee comprises 13 individuals who are highly knowledgeable about offensive line play, including former linemen, coaches, talent evaluators and media analysts. This group conducts in-depth analysis by reviewing game tape every week of the season to assess both the fundamentals and subtleties of overall O-line performance.

The 2018 voting committee includes Chairman Cole Cubelic (Auburn, SEC Network); Charles Arbuckle (UCLA, Indianapolis Colts); Randy Cross (UCLA, San Francisco 49ers); Gerry DiNardo (Notre Dame, head coach at LSU); Mike Golic, Jr. (Notre Dame, ESPN); Dave Harding (Duke, Blue Devil Network); Pat Hill (head coach at Fresno State, O-line coach at Atlanta Falcons); Barrett Jones (Alabama, St. Louis Rams); Duke Manyweather (Humboldt State, player and coach); Geoff Schwartz (Oregon, Carolina Panthers); Phil Steele (publisher of Phil Steele's College Football Preview, ESPN); Aaron Taylor (Notre Dame, Green Bay Packers); and Lance Zierlein (NFL draft analyst, NFL.com).

Looking Ahead

After the semifinalists and finalists have been selected, a vote will be held to select the 2019 recipient of the Joe Moore Award by a voting body of 200-plus members. This voting body includes all of the current offensive line coaches at the Division I/FBS level, as well as former players, coaches, colleagues of Coach Moore and select group of qualified media members.

Past Award Recipients

Past recipients of the Joe Moore Award include the offensive lines of the University of Alabama (2015), the University of Iowa (2016), the University of Notre Dame (2017), and the University of Oklahoma (2019).

About the Joe Moore Award

The Joe Moore Award is named after Joe Moore, widely regarded as one of the best offensive line coaches in college football history, most notably for his work at Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh. Over 18 seasons, Coach Moore sent 52 players on to the NFL, including Bill Fralic, Mark May, Russ Grimm, Jimbo Covert and others. The Joe Moore Award trophy, crafted by legendary sports sculptor Jerry McKenna, is the largest trophy in college football, standing at a height of 6 feet and weighing in at 800 pounds. The perpetual trophy is made available for display by the winning university until the conclusion of the following college football season.

About The Foundation for Teamwork

The Foundation for Teamwork is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering teamwork in all societal endeavors and bring that spirit of collective achievement to athletics, education, and organizations. Find out more at joemooreaward.com and follow the Joe Moore Award on Twitter (@joemooreaward), Instagram (@joemooreaward), and Facebook ([facebook.com/JoeMooreAward](https://www.facebook.com/JoeMooreAward)).

* AP Poll as of Oct. 20

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