

FRED MITCHELL AWARD PROUDLY CELEBRATES PLACE-KICKERS FOR EXCELLENCE ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND IN THE COMMUNITY IN THE 2019 TOP TEN

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December 9, 2019 – The Fred Mitchell Outstanding Place Kicker Award is proud to announce the Top 10 vote recipients of place-kickers for their excellence on the football field for the 2019 season and for continued community service during their collegiate careers.

The recipient of the Fred Mitchell Award will be announced in mid-December. Details are provided at [www.fredmitchellaward.com](http://www.fredmitchellaward.com). The season’s watch lists and updates may also be found on Twitter at [@kickeruww](https://twitter.com/kickeruww), and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fredmitchellaward/) at <https://www.facebook.com/fredmitchellaward/>.

In alphabetical order, the Fred Mitchell Outstanding Place Kicker Award Top 10 nominations for 2019 are listed below.

### 2019 Fred Mitchell Award Top Ten List

#### LUIS AGUILAR

Northern Arizona University – Football Championship Subdivision (FCS)

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
22	25	88%	2-2	6-6	4-4	8-9	2-4	57	52	52	118

Junior from Nogales, Ariz., is enjoying a breakout season that has seen him establish himself as one of the top kickers in the FCS...made the longest field goal in the FCS this season (and would be tied for longest in FBS) with a career-long 57-yard boot in win over Northern Colorado (Oct. 5)...is a perfect 11-of-11 on field goal attempts under 50 yards...averaging 63.0 yards on 59 kickoffs with 39 touchbacks – which currently ranks as the second-most among FCS leaders...85.7 percent success rate on field goal attempts ranks 11<sup>th</sup> nationally in the FCS and his average of 1.5 field goals made per game sits 10<sup>th</sup>...his 71 points scored rank as the 14<sup>th</sup>-highest total in the FCS...has been honored as the Big Sky Special Teams Player of the Week twice this season...was a perfect 3-for-3 on field goal attempts, including a 48-yarder in season opening win over Missouri State (Aug. 29)...drilled 7-of-8 kickoffs for touchbacks in the season-opening win over the Bears...finished 2-for-2 on field goal attempts with a long of 43 yards at Arizona (Sept. 7)...drilled all three field goal attempts, including a 44-yarder and banged 8-of-9 kickoffs for touchbacks in victory over Western New Mexico (Sept. 14)...connected on 46-yard field goal at Montana State (Sept. 21)...was a perfect 2-for-2 on field goal attempts,

including a career-long of 57 yards in win over Northern Colorado (Sept. 28)...the 57-yard field goal ranks as the second-longest in NAU history...also recorded touchbacks on all seven kickoffs vs. Northern Colorado...drilled game-winning field goal from 38 yards with four seconds left in 31-29 victory over Portland State (10/26)...posted touchbacks on all six kickoffs vs. Vikings...only two missed field goals this season came from 51 and 52 yards in rainy conditions at Illinois State (Sept. 21)...entered season with just four made field goals in his initial 22 career games with his longest make coming from 38 yards...has established himself as one the leaders on the squad this season with his dedications and work ethic...is a regular volunteer in the community having spent time this offseason dedicating his time to efforts to help assist the Flagstaff community following the “Museum Fire” in August of 2019 filling sandbags to be utilized in flood and fire prevention efforts...assisted the Salvation Army in their annual “Back to School Buddy” program where he partnered with a local child to help him pick out clothes and supplies for the upcoming school year.

## **JON ALBERTS**

Central College (Iowa) – Division III (D3)

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
11	12	92%	0-0	4-4	4-5	3-3	0-0	48	58	58	91

Senior from Huntley, Illinois...D3football.com All-West region selection in 2018...First team all-American Rivers Conference kicker in 2017 and 2018...D3football.com preseason All-American for 2019...Eight-time American Rivers Conference Special Teams Player of the Week (Sept. 10, 2017; Sept. 17, 2017; Oct. 15, 2017; Oct. 25, 2018; Nov. 12, 2018; Sept. 9, 2019; Sept. 16, 2019; Oct. 21, 2019)...Two-time D3football Kicker of the week (Oct. 15, 2017; Nov. 12, 2018)...He was for 6-for-6 on PATs and averaged 52.0 yards on eight kickoffs against Northwestern – St. Paul on September 9 to be named the A-R-C special teams player of the week...He was 6-for-6 on PATs and converted a 41-yard field goal against DePauw on September 16 to be named the A-R-C special teams player of the week...He was for 5-for-5 on PATs and 3-for-3 on field goals against Buena Vista on October 19 to be named the A-R-C special teams player of the week...Made school record 55-yard field goal at Wartburg on October 20, 2018...The 55-yard field goal was the longest in Division III in 2018 and tied for the sixth longest in all of NCAA football...2018 CoSIDA Academic All-American, also an Academic All-District pick in 2017 and 2018...Earned Academic all-American Rivers Conference honors in 2018 and 2017...School records for field goals in a game (4), field goals made in a season (14) and field goal percentage (87.5) in 2017.... In June of 2018, Alberts was named a preseason All-American by Street & Smith magazine...On 22 kickoffs in 2019, Alberts has totaled 1,775 yards for a 53.8 average. He has recorded 6 touchbacks...Has volunteered at the Children and Family Urban Movement in Des Moines by assisting with renovations and spending time with the kids...Yearly participant in Central College’s Service Day...Has spoken with students at a local church youth group...

## GRAYSON ATKINS

Furman University (South Carolina) – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
11	12	91%	0-0	3-3	1-1	6-7	1-1	55	48	50	81

A junior from Inman, S.C., Grayson is positioning himself to become the greatest kicker in Furman history. In October he extended he went 4-for-5, extending his streak (and Furman career record) for consecutive made field goals to 18 before finally missing on a 43-yarder vs. Western Carolina on Oct. 26. Earlier in that game he made his 18th straight field goal with a school record tying 55-yarder. He's since gone 2-for-3 since converting the 55-yarder, making him 20 for his last 21. He currently ranks second on the FCS in field goal accuracy rate (.900, 9x10) and is 29-of-36 for his career (.806), which puts him first in program history. His performance against Western Carolina netted him his third Southern Conference Special Teams Player of the Week honor, and he picked up his fourth scroll of the season (and seventh career SoCon POW laurel) after drilling a 48-yard field goal, contributing nine points, and registering four touchbacks on kickoffs in a 60-21 win over VMI on Nov. 9. His 211 career points, amassed over two-plus seasons, ranks seventh in program history. In 116 kickoffs over two-plus seasons he's totaled 67 touchbacks and only one kickoff out of bounds, which came on his 95th kick. Atkins was named to the 2019 STATS FCS and Street and Smith's Preseason All-America teams, as well as Coaches' Preseason All-Southern Conference. As a sophomore in 2018 missed his first two field goal attempts (from 48 and 50 yards) before reeling off 11 consecutive makes, among which were four from 50+ yards that established him as the first kicker in Furman history to drill four field goals from at least 50 yards in a season. He converted 29-of-33 extra point attempts and led the team in scoring with 62 points. Grayson was named SoCon Special Teams Player of the week three consecutive weeks (Oct. 20-Nov. 4) — a first in Furman history — for his performances against Samford, The Citadel (28-17 win), and Chattanooga (16-10 win) and was named STATS National Special Teams Player of the Week after kicking four field goals, including efforts from 27, 50, 51, and 53 yards, versus Samford — the three makes from 50+ yards representing the first by a Division I player in a game since 2006 (Sam Swank of Wake Forest) and first by an FCS player since Jesse Garcia from Louisiana-Monroe vs. McNeese in 1983. His 53-yarder was the third longest in Furman history. He was by-far the SoCon's top multi-purpose specialist in 2019, also averaging 42.7 yards on 47 punts (81-yarder versus The Citadel) and 60.6 yards on 55 kickoffs (none of which went out of bounds), leading the league with 29 touchbacks (second place kicker in touchbacks had 15). His stellar work as a placekicker, punter, and on kickoffs played a key role in Furman claiming a share of the 2019 Southern Conference Championship and netted him SoCon All-Freshman Team and Associated Press Second Team All-America honors. Grayson's 2018 season followed a stellar 2017 campaign that saw him handle all PATs (55x55) and field goals (9x13), his 82 points pacing the SoCon and ranking as the sixth highest tally in program history. Among his nine made field goals were two 46-yard efforts and a 34-yard connection versus N.C. State. His impressive work as a freshman helped key Furman to an 8-5 season that netted an FCS

playoff berth (the program's first since 2013) and No. 19 ranking in the STATS FCS Final Pol. Grayson is a communications major and two-time SoCcon Academic Honor Roll selection who has been active in community service projects in his two years on campus, including volunteering at the Harvest Hope Food Bank and serving as a student leader at KidFuge, a weeklong VBS at church, the past six years. He has also mentored students at Southside Christian School and mentored and trained several high school kickers.

### **DREW BEVELHIMER**

Butler University (Ind.) – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
8	10	80%	0-0	5-5	2-2	0-1	1-2	52	14	14	38

Senior from Indianapolis, Ind., ... 2019 Preseason All-PFL Team... 2018 All-PFL Second Team selection... 2018 Academic All-PFL First Team... 2018 Preseason All-PFL selection... Named to the 2018 AFCA Good Works Team... Named to the 2018 Mitchell Award Watch List... Hit a 44-yard FG with four seconds left to give Butler a 23-21 victory at No. 24 Youngstown State... Named PFL Special Teams Player of the Week (9/3) ... Named to the 2017 PFL Academic Honor Roll ... 2017 First Team All-Pioneer Football League... 2017 finalist for the Fred Mitchell Award... Has 36 career field goal makes, a Butler school record... Set the single-season school record in 2017 with 16 made field goals... 8-9 on field goals this year... Worked with Team Impact to work with 8-year old Robert Shaffer, a football fan with a rare kidney condition for which there is no cure... Works football clinics for children with special needs... Traveled to Czech Republic, Austria and Poland to teach the basics of football and to spread the name of Jesus ... Worked with local missionaries to work with schools, community centers and football clubs.

### **DANTE BROWN**

Fort Hays State University (Kans.) – Division II (D2)

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
19	23	83%	1-1	7-7	6-7	3-5	2-3	56	52	54	109

Senior from Mississauga, Ont., In 2018, Brown was named Don Hansen Football Committee National Special Teams Player of the Year...All-America First Team selection by the Don Hansen Football Committee and D2CCA...All-America Second Team selection by D2Football.com...MIAA Special Teams Player of the Year...All-MIAA First Team selection at both kicker and punter...Finalist for the 2018 Fred Mitchell Outstanding Placekicker Award...Led NCAA Division II in field goals made (28) and all NCAA levels in field goals made per game (2.33)...Broke the MIAA record for field goals in a season by three and was just two shy of the NCAA Division II single-season record...Converted 84.8 percent of his field goal attempts to rank 5th in NCAA Division II, going 28-of-33 for the season...Shattered the FHSU single-season record for points, going past the mark of 94 set by Brandon Brown, his placekicking predecessor...Ranked 11th in NCAA Division II for

total points scored...As the team's punter, averaged 41.4 yards per attempt, punting the ball 67 times for 2,772 yards...Ranked 30th in NCAA Division II in average yards per punt...Made a season-high five field goals in a game twice, accomplishing the feat against Central Oklahoma (Sept. 29) and Nebraska-Kearney (Oct. 20)...Named the MIAA Special Teams Player of the Week five times in 2019...Made at least two field goals in a game nine times...Was a perfect 17-of-17 on field goal attempts inside 40 yards...Longest made field goal of the season was 49 yards at Missouri Western (Sept. 6)...Tied the Fort Hays State record for longest punt in a game, initially set by Adam Ryan in 1997, with an 84-yard boomer against Central Missouri (Aug. 30)...Had 21 punts result in drives starting inside the 20 yardline...Had eight kickoff attempts, averaging 57.4 yards per attempt.

### **MITCHELL FINERAN**

Samford University (Ala.) – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
15	21	71%	1-1	4-5	7-9	3-4	0-2	45	46	47	91

Sophomore from Fort Valley, GA 2<sup>nd</sup> Team So Con All Conference PK (2019)... Finished 15/21 on Field Goals (71.4) in 12 games with Longest Field Goal of 45 yards and lead the So Con in Kick Scoring (91 Points)...46/47 Extra Points and 96/97 for Career Extra Points...91 for 91 consecutive extra Points (7<sup>th</sup> All Time in History of the So Con)... 28/38 for Career Field Goals (74.00)...Handled all Kick Off Duties with a 58.7 yard avg. and 23 Touchbacks...Kicked 3 Field Goals and 7 Extra Points vs. Tennessee Tech on Aug. 31st, for a So Con high 16 pts...Southern Conference Player of the Week vs. Citadel on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>... 2 Field Goals, 5/5 Ex. Pts. and kicked off 8 times with 6 TB's and a 63.6 Avg. vs VMI on Oct. 12th... 4 Field Goals & 3 Ex. Pts. (15 pts. total) scored on Mercer Nov. 02, 2019--4 Field Goals in one game most kicked this year in Co Con...Lead the So Con in kick scoring with 91 Points for the Second Straight Year...Lead the So Con in Field Goals with 15 in 12 games and Field Goals per game (1.5)... Pre-Season First Team ALL Southern Conference Kicker 2019...Southern Conference Academic Honors List 2019... Community Service Includes: Volunteering for the Exceptional Foundation, Birmingham, AL...Volunteer Magic City Woodworks, Birmingham, AL...Samford Student Athlete Mentor Goodyear Elementary...Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Summers, Brunswick, GA.

### **JAYDON HAAG**

University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh – D3

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
12	12	100%	0-0	3-3	5-5	3-3	0-0	49	27	30	63

Sophomore from Sparta, Wisc., Jaydon Haag led the NCAA Division III with a 1.000 field goal percentage, connecting on each of his 12 field goal attempts during the 2019 season, earning the 2019 WIAC Football Special Teams Player of the Year ... Haag took over Titan

field goal kicking duties during the fourth game of the season, when he converted a pair of field goals in a 26-23 UW-Oshkosh win over UW-Stout on Oct. 5, including a game-winning 42-yarder in the fourth quarter ... The Sparta High School graduate made four field goals longer than 40 yards this past fall, including a season-long 49-yard kick in the Titans' 27-20 victory over UW-Whitewater in the regular season finale Nov. 16 and a 41-yard boot in UW-Oshkosh's 38-37 overtime loss to Central College (Iowa) in the NCAA Division III postseason opener Nov. 23 ... Haag helped UW-Oshkosh finish the 2019 season with an 8-3 record. The Titans shared the WIAC title with UW-Whitewater and lost a 38-37 overtime decision to Central College (Iowa) in the first round of the NCAA Division III Championship.

## **DANNY LAUDET**

Concordia University (Minn.) – D2

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
17	23	74%	1-2	4-4	7-8	5-8	0-1	49	25	25	76

Junior from Cabas, France ... after serving strictly as a punter in his first two years in the program, he handled both duties in 2019 following eight years of placekickers honored by Mitchell Award lists ... ranked sixth in NCAA Division II in most field goals made with 1.55 per contest, second-best in the Northern Sun ... ranked 42nd in the country and seventh NSIC with a 73.9% field goal percentage ... led the team and ranked sixth in the league in scoring with 76 points ... was one of four players in Division II to make five field goals in a single game (5-for-5), making three clutch kicks on the road at St. Cloud State (10/5): game-tying FG in the fourth quarter, go-ahead FG in the fourth quarter and a go-ahead FG in overtime in an 18-15 road loss ... the 5-for-5 performance is the only recorded 5-for-5 FGM game in Northern Sun recorded history (back to 1998) and the 5 FGM ties an NSIC record, establishing a new Concordia single game record ... the 15 points at SCSU is a CSP single-game record and the NSIC single game high in 2019 ... made at least one field goal in 10 of 11 games and had four games with 2+ field goals made ... did not miss a PAT in 25 attempts ... was NSIC Special Teams Player of the Week in week four win at Wayne State (9/28), converting 2-of-2 field goals with a long of 49, delivering touchbacks on 5-of-6 kickoffs and making both PATs in addition to his punting stats ... his 49 yard FG at Wayne State was the second-longest FGM in the NSIC on the year ... volunteers with Chris Husby of Special Teams Football Academy, developing and working with younger kickers including via text and social media direct messaging, weightlifting and breaking down film ... volunteers with his family for Operation Christmas Child, setting up a fall party to invite friends and family to contribute gifts to send to children around the world and pack 30-40 additional boxes that are funded by his family ... visits Children's Hospital, dressing up in costumes with family handing out stuffed animal turtles to raise their spirits.

## JAMIE POGUE

Hardin-Simmons University (Texas) – D3

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Long	PATM	PATA	PTS
10	11	91%	0-0	8-9	1-1	1-1	0-0	40	62	64	92

Junior from Abilene, Texas, Pogue set the school record for points in a season by a kicker with 92. He was 10-for-11 on field goals and hit 62-of-64 PATS, including his last 44. He only true missed one of his 73 kicks this season, a PAT in the season opener. The other two misses were blocks off the foot. He tied an NCAA record with 13 PATs in a game against crosstown rival McMurry. His 10 field goals were the second-most in school history. He also is now third all-time in career field goals made. For his career, he is 17-of-21 on field goals and 129-of-136 on PATs. He set the school record for PATs in a season as a sophomore with 62 and tied it again as a junior ... Pogue also works in the sports information office. He also serves as a leader of the FCA on campus, volunteers with the Reading With The Cowboys program at Ortiz Elementary (an at-risk school district near the HSU campus) and is involved with HSU's partnership with the Special Olympics of Texas.

## McLEAN ROBERTSON

Wingate University (N.C.) – D2

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
16	21	76%	1-1	6-6	2-4	7-8	0-2	47	47	50	95

Junior from Lexington, S.C. ... Robertson and the #12 Bulldogs have won 14 regular season games in a row through the Virginia-Wise contest on Oct. 26, 2019 ... Robertson leads the South Atlantic Conference with his 10 field goals ... He is second on the SAC kick scoring charts with his 64 points (Lenoir-Rhyne's Chase Allbaugh has 65 points) ... Robertson has been named the AstroTurf South Atlantic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week twice this season (Sept. 23, Sept. 16) ... He hit the game-winning field goal in Wingate's 30-28 SAC home victory over Carson-Newman on Sept. 21 ... Robertson hit three-of-three field goals and three-of-three PATs to earn his second AstroTurf SAC Special Teams Player of the Week nod of the season ... The previous week, Robertson connected on two long field goals (40, 45) and four-of-four PATs in Wingate's 34-24 non-conference triumph at Fayetteville State ... His 45-yard field goal in the third quarter gave the Bulldogs the lead for good ... Robertson won AstroTurf SAC Special Teams Player of the Week honors ... Robertson is in his second season as Wingate's regular placekicker ... Last season, Robertson was a first team All-SAC place kicker for the Bulldogs ... Robertson connected on 12-of-14 field goals on the year, converting 51-of-54 extra points ... Robertson connected on three kicks of at least 40 yards last season, including a long of 46 in Wingate's NCAA playoff victory at West Georgia ... Robertson has participated in Wingate's nationally-recognized Special Olympics Football Field Day (last Saturday in August) three years in a row ... He has spent volunteer time with the University's One Day,

One Dog initiative ... Robertson has volunteered with the Miracle League as well... He works in Wingate's McGee Center (recreation complex) as a facility supervisor ...

**ELIJAH "STORM" RUIZ**

Stephen F. Austin (Texas) – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
21	26	81%	0-0	7-8	8-9	4-6	2-3	54	30	30	93

Senior from League City, Texas: A 2017 Fred Mitchell Award finalist, Storm Ruiz is a 2019 Preseason All-Southland Conference First Team Offense selectee ... has knocked through 17 of his 22 field goal attempts this season ... While an unblemished 22-for-22 on extra-point attempts, Ruiz made each of his four field goal tries against Tarleton State ... on Oct. 5, Ruiz nailed a career-long 51-yarder ... Ruiz capped his junior campaign by going 3-for-3 from 43, 22 and 32 yards out in the 53rd Battle for Chief Caddo against Northwestern State, which tied the most field goals attempted and made in a single game by a Southland place-kicker in 2018 ... Off the field, Ruiz is involved with several community outreach projects in Nacogdoches, Texas, including SFA's "Read to Succeed" program where Lumberjack football players devote part of their Friday mornings to reading to elementary school children at the SFA Charter School ... Additionally, he volunteers his time with other Lumberjack football players on Thursday mornings in helping greet and walk Raguet Elementary School students to class ... During the spring, Ruiz participates in SFA's The Big Event, which is a campus-wide community service initiative where students go out into the local community to make an impact by helping those in need with various projects.

**SAM THOREEN**

Hamilton College (N.Y.) – D3

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
10	10	100%	0-0	5-5	3-3	2-2	0-0	44	23	25	53

Sophomore from Worcester, Mass. ... An all-NESCAC first team selection on special teams. ... Set a program record with 10 field goals. ... 44-yard field goal vs. Amherst was the longest in the conference. ... Finished second in the conference among kickers with 53 points. ... A member of the D3football.com Team of the Week and the NESCAC Special Teams Player of the Week after he tied a program record with three field goals and accounted for 11 points in a 31-28 win over Amherst on Oct. 19. ... He made a 44-yarder that pulled the Continentals within 28-20 with 3:59 remaining in the fourth quarter, and his 40-yard boot with 4.0 seconds left gave Hamilton the three-point win over the Mammoths. ... One of two Division III kickers who made 100 percent of their field goal attempts this year. ... On Friday afternoons Sam drives a group of Hamilton students down to the elementary school in Clinton where they teach 4th and 5th graders basic Spanish terms



during their lunch. ... Last fall he volunteered for 2 hours every Friday at Hope House, a soup kitchen in Utica, as part of his religious studies course. ... Last spring, he went to the local Presbyterian Home to assist staff in transporting persons with disabilities to meals and social functions.