

**FOR RELEASE**

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## **Dayton's Tucker Yinger named PFL Scholar-Athlete of the Year, leads 26th Annual Academic All-PFL Teams**

ST. LOUIS, Mo.— Dayton redshirt senior running back Tucker Yinger was named the 2018 Pioneer Football League Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Wednesday, leading a group of 50 student-athletes named to the 26th Academic All-PFL Teams, as selected by the league's athletic communications directors.

Yinger, of Columbus, Ohio, is finishing his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Dayton and has posted a 3.81 grade-point average during his academic career. In addition, to being named the league's Scholar-Athlete of the Year, he joins a select few to be a four-time First-Team Academic All-PFL honoree.

The College Sports Information Director of America has twice recognized Yinger as an Academic All-American®, as a second-team selection in 2016 and a first-team honoree in 2017. He is a nominee for the 2018 Google Cloud Academic All-America Teams®, which will be announced this week.

On the field, Yinger is a two-time First-Team All-PFL honoree after becoming the first Dayton running back to post back-to-back 1,000-yard campaigns. This season, he became the primary target of opposing defenses and posted career bests in receptions and receiving yards before closing the 2018 campaign with three consecutive 200-yard outings. Yinger finished this season with 1,340 rushing yards (8th among FCS runners) and 1,730 all-purpose yards (7th among FCS all-purpose runners). He finished his Dayton career with a program-record 3,757 rushing yards and 4,468 all-purpose yards.

Yinger highlights a group of 10 PFL student-athletes to earn their second, third or fourth First-Team Academic All-PFL honor this season. The trio of three-time first-team honorees includes San Diego redshirt senior Anthony Lawrence, Drake senior defensive lineman Nathan Clayberg and Dayton senior defensive back David Leisring.

The seven first-team honorees earning their second Academic-All-PFL honor this season are Drake junior defensive lineman Jacob Bacon, San Diego redshirt junior offensive lineman Jake Michaels, Dayton senior defensive lineman Isaac Sexton, Dayton redshirt sophomore defensive back Tim Simon, San Diego redshirt senior defensive lineman Connor Spencer, and Stetson redshirt sophomore kicker Jonny Messina.

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 and reached their second season both athletically and academically at his current institution.

**(more)**

# 2018 PFL Scholar-Athlete of the Year: Tucker Yinger, Dayton

## 2018 Academic All-Pioneer Football League First Team

(as selected by PFL athletics communications directors)

Student-Athlete	School	Class.	Pos	GPA	Major (Minor)
<b>OFFENSE</b>					
Jacob Bacon (1)	Drake	Jr.	OL	3.94	Actuarial Science & Finance
Dane Cordell	Jacksonville	RSo.	OL	3.88	Accounting
Steven Doran	Drake	Sr.	WR	3.40	Physics & Astronomy
Nic Duch (2)	Jacksonville	RSr.	WR	3.89	Finance
Isaiah Kent-Schneider	Drake	Sr.	OL	3.98	Environmental Science & Secondary Education
Anthony Lawrence (3x, 1)	San Diego	RSr.	QB	3.61	Accountancy
Will Marty (2)	Butler	RSr.	QB	3.55	Marketing
Jake Michaels (1)	San Diego	RJr.	OL	3.66	Biology
Eric Rentschler (2)	Valparaiso	Sr.	OL	3.74	Computer Engineering
Brad Sznajder	Butler	RJr.	RB	3.89	Finance
Tucker Yinger (4x, 1)	Dayton	RSr.	RB	3.81	Mechanical Engineering
<b>DEFENSE</b>					
Nathan Clayberg (3x, 1)	Drake	Sr.	DL	3.76 3.50	Accounting & Finance Master of Business Administration
David Leiring (3x, 1)	Dayton	Sr.	DB	3.74	Finance
Jack Michael	San Diego	RJr.	DB	3.80	Accountancy & Finance
Carter Raleigh	Butler	Sr.	LB	3.70	Finance
Luke Sennett	Butler	RJr.	DB	3.66	Finance
Kieran Severa	Drake	Sr.	LB	3.55	Health Sciences-Clinical
Isaac Sexton (1)	Dayton	Sr.	DL	3.94	Chemical Engineering
Tim Simon (1)	Dayton	RSo.	DB	3.81	Mechanical Engineering
Connor Spencer (1)	San Diego	RSr.	DL	3.81	Electrical Engineering
Regis Steighner	Stetson	RJr.	DL	3.93	Economics
Mike Wheeler	Valparaiso	Sr.	LB	3.80	Economics
<b>SPECIAL TEAMS</b>					
Drew Bevelhimer	Butler	Jr.	K	3.47	Spanish
Jonny Messina (1)	Stetson	RSo.	K	3.73	Health Science
Matt Tunnacliffe	Dayton	Sr.	LS	3.49	Finance & Entrepreneurship

Notes in parentheses: 3x – player is a three-time first-team Academic All-PFL selection; 1-was a first-team selection in 2017; 2-was a second-team selection in 2017.

## 2018 Academic All-Pioneer Football League Second Team

Student-Athlete	School	Class	Pos.	GPA	Major (Minor)
<b>OFFENSE</b>					
Brad Alexander	Stetson	So.	OL	3.79	History
Ben Gauthier	Dayton	Sr.	OL	3.32	Adolescence To Young Adult Education (Integrated Social Studies Concentration)
Peter Greubel	Stetson	So.	OL	3.96	Public Health
Jarin Higginbotham	Morehead State	Sr.	WR	3.38	Exercise Science
Colin McGovern	Stetson	Sr.	QB	3.36	Sport Business
Brandon Micale	San Diego	So.	FB	3.97	Undeclared
Nathan Sames	Morehead State	Sr.	WR	3.43	Engineering Technology Design
Dakota Sneed	Butler	RSr.	OL	3.48	Science, Technology and Society
Chris Tremblay	Jacksonville	Jr.	OL	3.53	Engineering, Dual Degree
Richie Warfield	Dayton	RFr.	RB	3.97	Marketing
Dan Wittekind	Marist	Jr.	OL	3.36	Communication
<b>DEFENSE</b>					
Jacob Bergstrom	San Diego	RSo.	DL	3.60	Finance
Anthony Best	Dayton	RFr.	LB	3.97	Engineering
Grant Dixon	Marist	RSo.	LB	3.62	Business Administration
Jack Griffith	Marist	RSo.	DB	3.75	Communication
Sayyid Kanu	Morehead State	Sr.	DB	3.33	Radiology
Andrew McElroy	Marist	RJr.	DB	3.62	Business Administration
Michael Perera	Jacksonville	RJr.	LB	3.82	Finance
Peter Read	Drake	Sr.	DL	3.84	Health Sciences-Clinical
Nick Surges	Dayton	RSr.	DL	3.35	Finance
Terry Wallen	Drake	Sr.	DB	3.60	Finance
Jacob Wittwer	San Diego	RSr.	DL	3.57	Political Science/English
<b>SPECIAL TEAMS</b>					
Kyle Butz	Dayton	RSo.	RS	3.49	Sport Management
Dimitrios Latsonas	Valparaiso	Jr.	K	3.35	Physical Education Teaching
Michael Matthews	Davidson	Sr.	K	3.36	Biology