

Offensive MVP

I always treat the most valuable player on offense or defense as the player, who if we took off the field or was knocked out by injury, would have the most negative impact on the team.

In the case of this years winner, we'd lose a player who developed into a steady, calm leader. He developed an even keel demeanor that greatly increased his ability to play at a high level. This player led by example and played hard every snap. He took some hellacious hits and kept coming back for more. He was knocked out, by a clean but hard hit in an "important" game, and after a quarter of sitting he wanted back in.

Besides toughness and leadership this player brought an innate rushing ability, unique to his position. He rushed for nearly 400 yards in 5 games, at an average of 12 yards a carry. A number of his runs were 20 yards or more and came at a time that buried most of our opponents. He also completed nearly 50% of his passes, which is very tough to do in Canadian High School football.

If we took Blake Weetman off the field our offense became one dimensional and limited our game plan. Blake you have a bright future, we're looking forward to seeing what you will accomplish in grade 12, and it is my pleasure to name you the 2019 Most Valuable Offensive Player.

Most Valuable Offensive Lineman

Fort High has a long standing tradition of developing very good offensive linemen. Since 2003, I believe 6 of our offensive linemen have played either Team North, Team Alberta or gone on to play post secondary football. When Coach Hussey and I saw this years most valuable offensive lineman practice last year, in his grade 10 year, we knew he was the next in line.

This player combines high football IQ, with a physical skill set that is perfect for his position. Good offensive linemen have quick feet and heavy hands. This years winner has both. He is at his best when he exemplifies our offensive line motto for the year "mean and nasty". As the offensive players can attest to, S4 or "search left" was my favorite play to run this year. Why you might ask? Because it meant we were running the ball right behind our most valuable offensive lineman. It is my pleasure to present the 2019 most valuable offensive lineman to DJ Scott.

Most Improved

When you realize that 22 of the 34 person roster played their first game of high school football in 2019, you'll quickly realize singling out a player for most improved is extremely difficult. In fact, at our coaches meeting this was one of the longest discussions.

The player I advocated for came to us having played bantam but in the spring.... well he struggled. One practice I recall trying 4 players at his position just to get the task done. At the end of spring camp Coach Hussey and I talked with this player and said you have to spend all summer practicing. In my nearly 20 years around high school football, I've had similar conversations every season and rarely does the player follow through. Well in this case Aaron Turner clearly spent the summer shotgun snapping.

For those who don't know a shotgun snap involves identifying the defense in front of you, communicating with the rest of the offensive line, putting your head between your legs to check if the QB is ready, lifting your head, blindly throwing the ball back to the QB and of course executing your blocking assignment. If the shotgun snap is off, it ruins the play; it's at least a 5 yard loss and potentially a turnover. No pressure, sounds easy right? And for Aaron the guy he's trying to block routinely weighs 100 pounds more than him. After his summer of practice, Aaron did make shotgun snapping look easy. I believe in our undefeated season we only had 1 bad snap!

Aaron, I totally appreciate your coachability and work ethic. Your improvement over the season was extremely noticeable and it is my pleasure to present you as the 2019 Most Improved Player.