



19 Moments from 2019

My Top Sports Moments From The Year 2019

By Austin Rader

January 5, 2020 — Sports moments in 2019 did not disappoint. What a year it's been. There have been so many incredible moments in sports in the 2010's, and 2019 capped it off with a strong finish.

From my perspective, here is a list of the top 19 moments from 2019.

#19 *Clemson blows out Alabama in the 2019 CFP Championship* - I might be a little biased ranking this at 19. But nobody saw the Tigers 30-piecing the Tide in Santa Clara. Both had high powered offenses with NFL talent across the board. In the end, it was Clemson's red zone defense holding Tua and company to just nine points on four possessions inside the 20. AJ Terrell's pick six set the tone for Clemson's second championship in three years and Justyn Ross's 72-yard touchdown in the third quarter was the dagger.

#18 *Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer in an all-time classic in the Wimbledon final to capture his 5th Wimbledon title and 16th major* - It is the longest Wimbledon

championship match ever. Djokovic saved two match points becoming the first man in 71 years to win the title after facing a match point.

#17 Simone Biles becomes the most decorated gymnast in World Championship history by winning five gold medals in six events - Simone Biles brought her medal count to 25 which is an all-time record.

#16 Wild Championship Sunday - Both the NFC and AFC Championship games came down to the wire. The NFC Championship game featuring the Los Angeles Rams and the New Orleans Saints had a controversial finish with a clear pass interference call not being called. The Rams went on to win the game in overtime. Tom Brady lead the Pats on an epic drive in overtime to defeat the Kansas City Chiefs to advance to his 9th Super Bowl.



#15 Fifteen year old tennis player Coco Gauff became a star at Wimbledon as the youngest player ever to make the round of sixteen - Gauff defeated her idol Venus Williams during the tournament.

#14 Newtown High School wins state football championship on anniversary of Sandy Hook shooting - December 14th has always been an emotional day for people in Newtown, Connecticut. The Newtown High School football team gave the town something to cheer about, winning the state championship on the last play of the game 13-7. This team featured an older brother of one of the Sandy Hook victims as well as several players who attended Sandy Hook. It was Newtown's their first state championship in 27 years.



#13 USA Women's soccer captured their 2nd straight gold medal in the 2019 Women's World Cup.

#12 Brady and Belichick capture their 6th Super Bowl - It all comes full circle as the Pats beat the team they bested to win his first Super Bowl. With the entire 2018-19 season being dominated by the offenses, Super Bowl LIII was dominated by the defenses. Julian Edelman was the star of the show, effortlessly getting open all game long and moving the chains with ease. The Super Bowl MVP finished the night with 10 catches for 141 yards. Midway through the 4th quarter, Tom Brady connected with Rob Gronkowski on a 29-yard seam pass to set up a 1-yard Sony Michel touchdown run to give New England a 10-3 lead with seven minutes to go. It was the only touchdown of the game and a Stephon Gilmore interception sealed the win.



#11 Tyler Trent passed away on the first day of 2019 - His impact at Purdue University, college football, and the world will not be forgotten. He started the “Tyler Strong” movement, and captured the hearts of every person that knows his story. He predicted an upset in the Purdue vs. Ohio State game that Tyler Trent wished and predicted a Boilermaker upset came true (49-20). Running back DJ Knox had 146 yards and 3 touchdowns. When he got to the locker room after the game, he ran right up to Tyler Trent, shook his hand and said “thank you, you’re an inspiration to us all.” This touching moment showed college football fans outside of the Purdue program what Tyler Trent meant to the university and students about how to fight adversity with courage and class. See it here on youtube.

•<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4c5fELuw4QQ>

#10 Mamadi Diakite keeps Virginia’s title hopes alive - The 6’9” junior forward’s jump-shot at the buzzer sent the game into overtime in the Elite Eight of March Madness. Virginia would go on to defeat Purdue in overtime, as well as Auburn and Texas Tech to win the program’s first national championship. Virginia is the first team in college basketball history to lose to a 16 seed one year, and then go on and win the championship the following season.

#9 Joe Burrow wins the Heisman in storybook season for LSU - After being a 200 to 1 odds to win the Heisman in the preseason, Joe Burrow leads LSU to a movie-type season. We will find out on January 13th if the final chapter with a happy ending. Joe Burrow’s dad bet \$2,000 before the season that his kid would win the Heisman. After Joe became the first LSU player to capture the trophy since 1959, his father won \$400,000.

#8 Howie Kendrick becomes a legend in Washington D.C. - Down 2-1 in the top of the 7th inning in game 7 of the World Series, the 36 year-old hit an opposite field two-run home run that

struck the screen on the right field foul pole to give the Nationals the lead for good. After reports surfaced a few weeks later that the Astros were “cheating,” it only makes this win by the Nationals that much sweeter.

#7 Los Angeles Angels honor tragic loss of pitcher Tyler Skaggs by throwing a combined no-hitter - After the sudden death of Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, the Angels honor him by wearing No. 45 on their back. His mother, Debbie Skaggs, threw out the first pitch. Then the magic started. Mike Trout hit a 454 foot home run to open the scoring. The Angels pitchers combined for a no-hitter, the 11th in franchise history, which was the number Skaggs wore in high school. After scoring seven times in the first inning, the final score was 13-0, which aligned with Skaggs’ birthday 7/13. After the game, the Angels players walked out to the mound and laid down their jerseys.

#6 Damien Lillard hits a 37 foot buzzer beater to send the Oklahoma City Thunder home - It was his 50th point of the game as he waved goodbye to the Thunder in the midst of a dog-pile. Needless to say, “he had the last word.” See it here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiQFVjyP148>

#5 Kwahi Leonard put an end to yet another dynasty by leading the Toronto Raptors to their first ever championship - Kwahi Leonard’s playoff run was epic. Starting with the buzzer-beater to defeat the Sixers to game 3 of the Eastern Conference Finals down 0-2 and telling Coach Nurse to guard Giannis, leading to four straight wins. Kwahi put an end to the Warriors dynasty beating a vulnerable Warriors squad playing without its best player in Kevin Durant. It felt like each of the four wins Toronto won they had someone step up. Game 1 was Pascal Siakam, game 3 was the lights out shooting from Danny Green. Game 5 Kwahi took over in the fourth quarter and game 6 Kyle Lowry had a hot start and Fred Vanvleet went off in the 4th quarter. Simply put, these guys were legendary.



#4 Out with the Old Stan, In with the New Stan - What if I told you that a team with the worst record in the NHL in January would go on to win the Stanley Cup with an interim head coach leading the way? The St. Louis Blues did just that. The Blues completed their Cinderella story with a game seven defeat against the Boston Bruins at the TD Garden to win their first ever Stanley Cup. They won the “Stan”ley Cup, and jeered “Stan” Kroenke, who took the St. Louis Rams to L.A.



#3 Dwyane Wade has his “moment” in his Last Dance Tour with a buzzer beater against Golden State - Dwyane Wade’s “Last Dance Tour” was memorable. He had 30 points in his final home game in Miami, he capped off his career in Brooklyn with a triple double (assisting his 10th assist to longtime teammate and friend Udonis Haslam), and dribbled out the shot clock to a thunderous crowd as a legend. But the top moment of Wade’s final season, was

telling the world that Miami will always be Wade County when he hit a game-winning three against the Golden State Warriors in Miami. With the Heat trailing by two points, Wade got his initial three blocked by Kevin Durant and Jordan Bell with one second left. However, Wade quickly corralled the ball and hoisted up a prayer at the buzzer, and the ball banked in. Wade was mobbed by his teammates and jumped on the scorer’s table and pounded his chest. Enjoy it here:

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbaRckWWaEg>

#2 Kwahi Leonard sends the 76ers home in a series ending buzzer beater to move on to the Eastern Conference Finals - After a Jimmy Butler layup with 4.2 seconds left in regulation, it felt like this game was headed to overtime. Kwahi Leonard had other plans. Almost shooting the ball from out of bounds with Joel Embiid draped all over him, Kwahi rattled in the dagger to send the Toronto Raptors to the Eastern Conference Finals.

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#1 Tiger Woods wins his first major since 2008 - In August of 2018, Tiger Woods announced his return at the PGA. In 2019, Tiger finished the job winning the Masters. It was Woods fourth Masters championship and his 15th major. Woods leads all active golfers in career major wins and career PGA Tour wins. After everything Woods has been through, this is the “greatest comeback in sports.”

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Honorable Mentions

- *University of Alabama ZBT Basketball Athletics captured their second intramural championship in five seasons (first since 2015).*
- *The England Cricket Team defeated the New Zealand Cricket Team in the inaugural 12th ever Cricket World Cup.*
- *The Washington Mystics defeated the Connecticut Sun, 89-78 in Game 5 of the 2019 WNBA Finals.*
- *Liverpool defeated Tottenham 2-0 to secure their sixth European Cup title.*
- *On January 29, 2019 Benchwarmers 2 was released.*