

**ST. JOHN BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 6, 2018) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced DJ Uiagalelei of St. John Bosco High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade California Football Player of the Year. Uiagalelei is the second Gatorade California Football Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John Bosco High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Uiagalelei as California's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Uiagalelei joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06 Highland Park HS, Texas) and Christian McCaffrey (2012-13, 2013-14, Valor Christian High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot-5, 238-pound junior quarterback passed for 3,366 yards and 48 touchdowns this past season, leading the Braves (13-1) to the championship game of the Southern Section Division 1 playoffs. Rated the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Rivals.com, Uiagalelei also rushed for 312 yards and six scores. The MaxPreps Sophomore Player of the Year in 2017, he concluded his junior year with 6,099 passing yards and 77 touchdowns in his prep football career.

Uiagalelei has volunteered locally as a youth football coach, and he has donated his time as a St. John Bosco High school ambassador. "DJ is one of the most unique and impressive student-athletes I have had the opportunity to work with," said Jason Negro, head coach of St. John Bosco High. "He is a once-in-a-generation type player."

Uiagalelei has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school in the fall of 2019.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Uiagalelei joins recent Gatorade California Football Players of the Year J.T. Daniels (2017-18 & 2016-17, Mater Dei High School), Sean McGrew (2015-16, St. John Bosco High School), and Jake Browning (2014-15 & 2013-14, Folsom High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Uiagalelei has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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