

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**OMAHA NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2017) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Milton Sargbah of Omaha North High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year. Sargbah is the second Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Omaha North 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 Sargbah as Nebraska'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, Sargbah joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mitchell Trubisky (2012-13, Mentor High School, Ohio), Greg Olsen (2002-03, Wayne Hills High School, N.J.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06 Highland Park High School, Texas), Harrison Smith (2006-07 Knoxville Catholic High School, Tenn.), Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga High School, N.Y.), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School, Mont.) and Leonard Fournette (2014-15 & 2012-13, St. Augustine High School, La.).

The 5-foot-7, 165-pound senior running back rushed for 2,355 yards and 28 touchdowns on 206 carries this past season, averaging 11.4 yards per carry and leading the Vikings to the Class A state championship. Sargbah also led the state in scoring with 223 points. He was selected to both the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska team and the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team.

Sargbah has volunteered locally on behalf of youth football camps. "Milton Sargbah is an outstanding football player," said Jeff Tomlin, head coach at Grand Island High. "He's so elusive that I don't think he gets credit for being as tough and physical as he is. He breaks a ton of tackles, his change-of-direction is the best I've seen in a long time and his straightaway speed is also very good. I've never seen him run down from behind, in person or on film."

Sargbah has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Sargbah joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Football Players of the Year Trevor Nichelson (2016-17, Ashland-Greenwood High School), Jadyne Kowalksi (2015-16, Bellevue West High School), C.J. Johnson (2014-15, Bellevue West High School), Harrison Phillips (2013-14, Millard West High School), Isaac Aakre (2012-13, Millard North High School), Drew Ott (2011-12, Giltner High School), Tyson Broekemeier (2010-11, Aurora High School), and Bronson Marsh (2009-10, Millard South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sargbah will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.