

## **DECLO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Keegan Duncan of Declo High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year**. Duncan is the first Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Declo 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 Duncan as Idaho'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, Duncan 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 High School, Texas) and Christian McCaffrey (2012-13, 2013-14, Valor Christian High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound senior running back and defensive back rushed for 2,041 yards and 27 touchdowns on 130 carries this past season, leading the Hornets to a 12-0 record and the Class 2A state championship. Duncan also caught 19 passes for 595 yards and 13 TDs, while passing for four touchdowns in addition to returning three punts, two kickoffs and two interceptions for scores. The Class 2A Player of the Year, he is a three-time First Team All-State selection.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Duncan has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, youth sports programs and the Boy Scouts of America. "Keegan Duncan is the best player at any level in Idaho," said Brody Birch, head coach at Teton High. "He moves very well for his size, he has good hands and he also plays well on defense. He's a devastating blocker, too, and a dangerous returner in the kicking game. Just a great all-around football player."

Duncan has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Boise State University next fall.

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.

Duncan joins recent Gatorade Idaho Football Players of the Year Tommy Togiai (2017-18, Highland High School), Colson Yankoff (2016-17, Coeur d'Alene High School), Trey Bell (2015-16, Mountain View High School), and Tristen Hoge (2014-15 & 2013-14, Highland High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Duncan 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).