

WARREN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 6, 2018) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **David Bell of Warren Central High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year**. Bell is the second Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Warren Central 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 Bell as Indiana'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, Bell 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-2, 200-pound senior wide receiver and defensive back led the Warriors to a 14-0 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Bell caught 85 passes for 1,542 yards and 22 touchdowns. He also passed for a score and returned a punt for a TD. Defensively, he recorded 35 tackles and two interceptions. A three-time First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep football career with 248 catches for 4,530 yards and 58 touchdowns.

Bell has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research, in addition to donating his time at a homeless shelter/food bank and as a youth mentor. "David Bell is a game-changing type of player on both sides of the ball," said Jason Simmons, head coach of Ben Davis High. "David is a big-moment player that performs his best in big games."

Bell has maintained a 3.33 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. 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.

Bell joins recent Gatorade Indiana Football Players of the Year Tyrone Tracy (2017-18, Decatur Central High School), Russ Yeast (2016-17, Center Grove High School), Brandon Peters (2015-16, Avon High School), Markell Jones (2014-15, Columbus East High School), and Sammy Mireles (2013-14, Elwood Community High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Bell 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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