

WESTERN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Wandale Robinson of Western Hills High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year**. Robinson is the first Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Western Hills 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 Robinson as Kentucky'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, Robinson 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 5-foot-9, 180-pound senior running back, wide receiver and defensive back rushed for 1,973 yards and 30 touchdowns on 206 carries this past season, leading the Wolverines (7-4) to the Class 3A state tournament. Robinson tacked on 31 pass receptions for 725 yards and 11 touchdowns, also recording six forced fumbles, three interceptions and a team-high 119 tackles on defense. Named Mr. Football by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association, he is the state's Paul Hornung Award winner and was selected to play in the 2019 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

A member of his church's student ministry, Robinson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Reforest Frankfort initiative as well as youth sports programs. "I think Wandale Robinson is the best overall athlete I've seen in 34 years of coaching in Kentucky," said Jerry Perry, head coach at Garrard County High. "No one in the state is asked to do as much offensively, defensively or in the kicking game. He's a tremendous athlete, but his motor is what sets him apart from the rest."

Robinson has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Robinson joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Football Players of the Year Rondale Moore (2017-18, Trinity High School), Jamale Carothers (2016-17, Bowling Green High School), Kash Daniel (2015-16, Paintsville High School), Elijah Sindelar (2014-15, Caldwell County High School), and Damien Harris (2013-14, Madison Southern High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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