

**THORNTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Anthony Bracamonte of Thornton Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year**. Bracamonte is the fifth Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Thornton Academy.

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 Bracamonte as Maine'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, Bracamonte 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-7, 150-pound senior running back and return man led the Trojans to an 11-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Bracamonte rushed for 1,013 yards and nine touchdowns, averaging 10.9 yards per carry. He also caught 11 TD passes and scored seven times on special teams (five punt returns, two kickoffs). The Southern Maine Athletic Association Player of the Year, he concluded his prep football career with 1,959 yards rushing and 48 total touchdowns.

Bracamonte has volunteered locally with a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research, in addition to donating his time to an assisted living facility and as a youth football coach. "Anthony Bracamonte is a terrific player; his skill set is so unique," said Kevin Cooper, head coach of Bonny Eagle High. "The short-space quickness and unreal acceleration ability is just off the charts and makes him very hard to defend."

Bracamonte has maintained a weighted 3.63 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.

Bracamonte joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Owen Garrard (2017-18, Scarborough High School), Mike Laverriere (2016-17, Thornton Academy), Joe Esposito (2015-16, Portland High School), Joe Fitzpatrick (2014-15, Cheverus High School), and Ben Lucas (2013-14, Cony High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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