

**EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Mike Sainristil of Everett High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year**. Sainristil is the sixth Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Everett 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 Sainristil as Massachusetts' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Sainristil 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-10, 175-pound senior wide receiver and defensive back caught 30 passes for 762 yards and 12 touchdowns this past season, leading the Crimson Tide (10-1) to the Division 1 North Sectional semifinals. A Boston Globe and Boston Herald All Scholastic honoree as a junior, Sainristil also recorded six interceptions in the secondary, including three in one game. He concluded his prep career with 28 receiving touchdowns.

A musician who plays the violin, piano and drums, Sainristil is a member of the Haitian Club at Everett High. He has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "We basically double-covered him the entire game to reduce his impact, and the two times we didn't double him he had two touchdown receptions," said Michael Redding, head coach of Mansfield High. "On defense, he was even more impressive with three interceptions that really changed the momentum of the game."

Sainristil has maintained a B average in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Sainristil has inked a financial-aid agreement that will pave the way for him to immediately enroll at the University of Michigan. He will graduate from high school later this month and attend collegiate classes in the spring semester.

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.

Sainristil joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Football Players of the Year Sal Frelick (2017-18, Lexington High School), Bobby Maimaron (2016-17, Duxbury High School), Danny Dalton (2015-16, Marshfield High School), Joe Gaziano (2014-15, Xaverian Brothers High School), and Neil O'Connor (2013-14, Leominster High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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