

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Isaiah Williams of Trinity Catholic High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year**. Williams is the first Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Catholic 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 Williams as Missouri'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, Williams 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-11, 175-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,470 yards and 33 touchdowns this past season, leading the Titans to a 13-2 record and the Class 3 state championship. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Williams completed 114 of 226 passes with just three interceptions, and also rushed for 1,132 yards on 102 carries, scoring 11 touchdowns. He was ranked as the nation's No. 47 recruit in the Class of 2019 by Rivals.com and has been selected to play in the 2019 Under Armour All-America Game.

A devoted member of his church community, Williams has also volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Isaiah Williams is a great player, a superior dual-threat quarterback," said Trent Tracy, head coach at Southern Boone High. "What stood out most about him was his running ability and his ability to continue plays with his feet."

Williams has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Illinois 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.

Two-time winner Williams joins Gatorade Missouri Football Players of the Year Alex Huston (2016-17, Glendale High School), Skylar Thompson (2015-16, Fort Osage High School), T.J. Green (2014-15, Rockhurst High School), and Dalvin Warmack (2013-14, Blue Springs High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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