

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Carson Rostad of Hamilton High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year**. Rostad is the first Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hamilton 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 Rostad as Montana'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, Rostad 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-3, 210-pound junior quarterback passed for 2,794 yards and 43 touchdowns this past season, leading the Broncos (12-1) to the Class A state final. Rostad completed 223 of 358 passes with just six interceptions, and also rushed for 694 yards and 12 touchdowns on 100 carries. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he's also a three-time All-Conference honoree.

Rostad has volunteered locally on behalf of special needs students in his school and youth sports camps. "Rostad is an incredible player," said Chad Ross, head coach at Whitefish High. "He's both a passing threat and a running threat and he demonstrated himself to be a great leader, too. He was by far the most influential player in our part of the state."

Rostad has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Rostad joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Gabe Sulser (2017-18, Billings Senior High School), Nathan Dick (2016-17, Billings Senior High School), Balue Chapman (2015-16, Bozeman High School), Andrew Grinde (2014-15, C.M. Russell High School), and Will Dissly (2013-14, Bozeman High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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