

SUE CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 **Dorian Lewis of Sue Cleveland High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Mexico Football Player of the Year**. Lewis is the second Gatorade New Mexico Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Sue Cleveland 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 Lewis as New Mexico'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, Lewis 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, 185-pound junior running back rushed for 1,583 yards and 20 touchdowns this past season as the Storm (12-1) reached the Class 6A state championship game. Lewis tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee early in the Storm's ninth game and missed the rest of the season. He averaged 11.1 yards per carry and also caught four touchdown passes. A year ago, he gained 1,500 yards and ran for 15 scores as a sophomore at Andress High in El Paso, Texas.

A member of the Cleveland High Black Student Union, Lewis has volunteered locally as part of area beautification projects and as a youth football coach. "Dorian is a special talent," said Rex Henderson, head coach of Artesia High. "We struggled to tackle him—he just makes people miss. Even when we had multiple players in position, he would break free. He combines speed and power, but the elusiveness is what makes him special."

Lewis has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school in the fall of 2019.

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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Football Players of the Year Brandon Baeza (2017-18, Las Cruces High School), Josh Foley (2016-17, Rio Rancho High School), Gabe Ortega (2015-16, Sue Cleveland High School), Zach Gentry (2014-15, Eldorado High School), and Bo Coleman (2013-14, Valley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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