

## **GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Trevor Yeboah-Kodie of Garden City High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New York Football Player of the Year**. Yeboah-Kodie is the first Gatorade New York Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Garden City 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 Yeboah-Kodie as New York'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, Yeboah-Kodie 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, 185-pound senior running back rushed for 1,532 yards and 22 touchdowns on 129 carries this past season, leading the Trojans to a perfect 12-0 record and their third straight Long Island Class II championship. Yeboah-Kodie also caught 10 passes for 147 yards and one touchdown, while returning two punts for touchdowns. A First Team All-State and All-Long Island selection, he is a finalist for the Thorp Award, given to the top player in Nassau County.

Also a lacrosse standout, Yeboah-Kodie has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and has raised funds to benefit diabetes research. "Trevor Yeboah-Kodie is an unbelievable football player and a class act," said Anthony Cracco, head coach at Mepham High. "No team has been able to slow him down for the past two seasons. He's just special, and he plays the game the right way."

Yeboah-Kodie has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will attend Brown University next fall, where he will play lacrosse.

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.

Yeboah-Kodie joins recent Gatorade New York Football Players of the Year Jeremy Ruckert (2017-18, Lindenhurst High School), Jack Coan (2016-17, Sayville High School), Jake Zembiec (2015-16, Aquinas Institute), Jordan Fredericks (2014-15, Lawrence High School), and Curtis Samuel (2013-14, Erasmus Hall High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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