

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 **Cade Stover of Lexington High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year**. Stover is the first Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lexington 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 Stover as Ohio'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, Stover 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-5, 225-pound senior safety and running back recorded 178 tackles and rushed for 1,497 yards this past season, leading the Minutemen (7-5) to the second round of the Division III state tournament. The state's Mr. Football winner, Stover totaled four interceptions, forced two fumbles and tallied double-digit tackles in all 12 games. Offensively, he scored 18 touchdowns on the ground and also caught a TD pass.

Stover puts in long hours on his family's farm, and he has volunteered locally as part of an elementary school literacy outreach campaign and as a youth football and basketball coach. "Cade Stover was the most impactful player on the field we played this season," said Scott Valentine, head coach of Ashland High School. "He could be a game-changer on either side of the ball or both in the same game."

Stover has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Ohio State University 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.

Stover joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Ra'veion Hargrove (2017-18, Trotwood-Madison High School), Michael Warren (2016-17, Central Catholic High School), Tommy Kraemer (2015-16, Elder High School), and Joe Burrow (2014-15 & 2013-14, Athens High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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