

**WILSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Nathan Overholt of Wilsonville High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year**. Overholt is the first Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilsonville 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 Overholt as Oregon'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, Overholt 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, 190-pound senior quarterback threw for a state-record 59 touchdowns this past season, leading the Wildcats (12-1) to the Class 5A state championship game. Overholt completed 221-of-316 passes for 3,832 yards and only six interceptions, breaking the 21-year-old state record by throwing his last three TD tosses in the state final. A two-time All-League selection, he passed for at least four TDs in 10 games and also rushed for seven scores.

A capable and avid public speaker, Overholt has competed in a public debate competition about the Constitution through the We the People program. He has volunteered locally as a youth football coach, basketball coach and referee. "I watched all of Wilsonville's film from this year and I haven't seen another quarterback do what Nathan does too often in Oregon over the last 15 years," said Eric Fraser, head coach of Cleveland High School. "The vision that he has and the poise he displays in the pocket makes his team a threat to score on every play."

Overholt has maintained a weighted 4.23 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Overholt joins recent Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Trey Lowe (2017-18, Jesuit High School), Tim Tawa (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, West Linn High School), and Keegan Lawrence (2013-14, Sherwood High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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