

LAUSANNE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Eric Gray of Lausanne Collegiate School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year**. Gray is the first Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lausanne Collegiate 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 Gray as Tennessee'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, Gray 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-10, 195-pound senior running back rushed for 2,499 yards and 40 touchdowns on 241 carries this past season, leading the Lynx to the Division II-AA semifinals. The state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year, Gray shattered the state record for career touchdowns with 138. Also the first player in state history to win three Mr. Football awards, he is a two-time Commercial Appeal Offensive Player of the Year and has been chosen to play in the 2019 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Gray has served as a middle school math tutor and has volunteered locally on behalf of Touchdowns Against Cancer. "Eric Gray is a very elusive guy with great speed," said Andre Lott, head coach at St. George's School. "He can run you over or he can beat you in the open field. Most teams load the box to stop the run against him, but that hasn't happened yet."

Gray has maintained a 3.50 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.

Two-time winner Gray joins Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Eric Gray (2017-18, Lausanne Collegiate School), JaCoby Stevens (2016-17, Oakland High School), Dillon Mitchell (2015-16, White Station High School), Ke'Shawn Vaughn (2014-15, Pearl-Cohn High School), and Todd Kelly Jr. (2013-14, Webb School of Knoxville) among the state's list of former award winners.

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