

**PUYALLUP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Jacob Holcomb of Puyallup High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year**. Holcomb is the fifth Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Puyallup 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 Holcomb as Washington'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, Holcomb 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, 175-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,148 yards and 45 touchdowns this past season, leading the Vikings (11-2) to the Class 4A state semifinals. Holcomb completed 210-of-307 passes (68.4 percent completion rate) and threw just four interceptions. He connected on at least three TD passes in 10 of 13 games and also rushed for 765 yards and eight scores.

Holcomb has volunteered locally organizing school assemblies at Puyallup High. He has also donated his time as a youth football and basketball camp counselor. "Jacob was the most difficult player we had to prepare for all year," said Chris Paulson, head coach of Curtis High. "He is incredibly accurate as a passer and has the athleticism to extend plays as well. He is simply a winner."

Holcomb has maintained a 3.87 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.

Holcomb joins recent Gatorade Washington Football Players of the Year Isaiah Ifanse (2017-18, Bellevue High School), Jack Colletto (2016-17, Camas High School), Jacob Eason (2015-16, Lake Stevens High School), Austin Joyner (2014-15, Marysville-Pilchuck High School), and Reilly Hennessey (2013-14, Camas High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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