BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Jett Washington of Bishop Gorman High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Washington as Nevada's best high school football player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, LA), Nick Singleton (2021-22, Governor Mifflin High School, PA) and Keelon Russell (2024-25, Duncanville High School, TX).

The 6-foot-5, 208-pound senior safety led the Gaels to an 11-1 record and the Open Division state championship this past season. Ranked as the No. 18 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports.com, Washington anchored a defense that allowed 64 points all season, including just 13 in seven games against in-state competition. Washington, the nephew of 1995-96 Gatorade National Basketball Player of the Year Kobe Bryant, recorded 59 tackles, 4 interceptions, seven pass breakups and forced two fumbles. A Polynesian Bowl All-Star, he will participate in the Under Armour All-America Game in January.

Washington has volunteered locally as a tutor in his mother's elementary school class. He has also donated his time feeding the homeless through Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. "Jett has been nothing short of extraordinary," said Brent Browner, head coach of Bishop Gorman High School. "His combination of natural ability, work ethic and football IQ makes him one of the most impactful players in the state."

Washington has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Oregon next fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X (Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

###