

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**MARTINSBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2017) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tyson Bagent of Martinsburg High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year. Bagent is the fourth Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Martinsburg 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 Bagent as West Virginia'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, Bagent joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mitchell Trubisky (2012-13, Mentor High School, Ohio), Greg Olsen (2002-03, Wayne Hills High School, N.J.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06 Highland Park High School, Texas), Harrison Smith (2006-07 Knoxville Catholic High School, Tenn.), Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga High School, N.Y.), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School, Mont.) and Leonard Fournette (2014-15 & 2012-13, St. Augustine High School, La.).

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound senior quarterback led the Bulldogs to a 14-0 record and a fifth-straight Group AAA state championship this past season. Bagent completed 197-of-274 passes for a 72 percent completion rate, throwing for 3,199 yards and 41 touchdowns against just four interceptions, and he also rushed for eight scores. Bagent had a pair of TD passes and two scoring runs in Martinsburg's 44-16 win over Spring Valley High in the state title game. A First Team All-State selection as a junior, he concluded his prep career with 7,759 passing yards and 93 touchdowns.

Bagent has volunteered locally as a youth football coach. "Tyson is an exceptional football player that comes around once in a while," said Craig Hunter, head coach of Jefferson High. "He has great football intelligence and his ability to get rid of the ball with accuracy is also exceptional."

Bagent has maintained a 3.43 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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Bagent joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Football Players of the Year Isaac Brown (2016-17, Martinsburg High School), Cody Mitchell (2015-16, Point Pleasant High School), Kentre Grier (2014-15, South Charleston High School), Chazzy Thomas (2013-14, Morgantown High School), Ryan Switzer (2012-13 & 2011-12, George Washington High School), Keion Wright (2010-11, Capital High School), and Allan Wasonga (2009-10, Parkersburg High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Bagent will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.