

**DOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Javon Peace of Dover High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year**. Peace is the second Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Dover 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 Peace as Delaware'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, Peace 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 HS, Texas) and Christian McCaffrey (2012-13, 2013-14, Valor Christian High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound junior running back rushed for 1,892 yards and 27 touchdowns on 162 carries this past season, leading the Senators (9-2) to the Division I semifinals. Peace also caught 16 passes for 339 yards and four touchdowns. He is a two-time All-Henlopen Conference selection and a two-time All-State honoree.

Peace has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Best Buddies program as well as youth sports camps. "Javon Peace is a great football player," said John Bellace, head coach at Archmere Academy. "He's dynamic on the field, and he's a hard worker and a great kid. His body of work this year is just impossible to ignore."

Peace has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Peace joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Will Knight (2017-18, Smyrna High School), Nolan Henderson (2016-17, Smyrna High School), Colby Reeder (2015-16, Salesianum School), Taronn Selby (2014-15, St. Georges Technical High School), and Darius Wade (2013-14, Middletown High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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