

## **QUINCY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Jirehl Brock of Quincy Senior High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year**. Brock is the first Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Quincy Senior 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 Brock as Illinois'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, Brock 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 6-foot-1, 207-pound senior running back and safety rushed for 2,155 yards and 33 touchdowns on 188 carries this past season, leading the Blue Devils to a 7-3 record and the Class 6A playoffs. Brock chipped in with seven pass receptions for 137 yards and four touchdowns, he recorded 26 tackles and two interceptions on defense. The career rushing leader in the Western Big 6 Conference, he is a First Team All-State selection and the Herald-Whig Player of the Year.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Brock has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, youth sports camps and an elementary school reading initiative. "Jirehl Brock is just an extraordinary football player," said Todd Depoorter, head coach at Alleman High. "In my 30 years of coaching high school football at Alleman, he's the finest running back I've ever seen or coached against. He was an incredible player on defense too, a very intimidating tackler with a great sense for the ball."

Brock has maintained a 3.10 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Iowa State University 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.

Brock joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Samson Evans (2017-18, Prairie Ridge High School), Jake Marwede (2016-17, Loyola Academy), Sam Brodner (2015-16, Glenbard West High School), Gabe Green (2014-15, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School), and Justin Jackson (2013-14, Glenbard North High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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