

DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Bryan Bresee of Damascus High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year**. Bresee is the second Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Damascus 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 Bresee as Maryland'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, Bresee 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-5, 280-pound junior defensive end and offensive lineman recorded 46 tackles, 34 tackles for a loss, and 12.5 sacks this past season, leading the Swarmin' Hornets (11-1) to the Class 2A quarterfinals. Bresee helped Damascus win a state-record 53 consecutive games. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2020 by ESPN and 247Sports.com, he was named to the ALL-USA Preseason Defensive Team and was a Washington Post All-Met selection.

Bresee has raised funds to benefit cancer research and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "He has a combination of speed and size that you don't see at the high school level," said Ray Fowle, head coach at Magruder High. "He's a special player with an impressive collection of physical attributes. Any team that attempted to block him with one player lost that gamble. On pass plays we used two linemen and had a running back chip him."

Bresee has maintained a 3.68 GPA 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.

Bresee joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Anthony Lytton Jr. (2017-18, Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School), Travis Levy (2016-17, Sherwood High School), Jake Funk (2015-16, Damascus High School), Dwayne Haskins (2014-15, Bullis School), and Taiwan Deal (2013-14, DeMatha Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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