

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Ryan Toscano of Bedford High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Hampshire Football Player of the Year**. Toscano is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bedford 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 Toscano as New Hampshire'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, Toscano 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, 215-pound senior running back, linebacker and defensive back led the Bulldogs to a 12-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Toscano rushed for 1,020 yards and 17 touchdowns, and he also caught 19 passes for 298 yards and three scores. Defensively, Toscano recorded 63 tackles, including 15 for a loss, along with two interceptions and 1.5 sacks. A three-time First Team All-State lacrosse player, he also returned a fumble for a score.

Toscano has volunteered locally as part of an elementary school literacy outreach campaign and as a youth lacrosse coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Ryan Toscano is as tough of a player as we faced this year with his strength, speed and physicality," said John Trisciani, head coach of Bishop Guertin High. "He's a tremendous football player."

Toscano has maintained a weighted 4.25 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. 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.

Toscano joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Football Players of the Year Andrew Duval (2017-18, Goffstown High School), Garrett Macomber (2016-17, Plymouth Regional High School), Connor Bourque (2015-16, Goffstown High School), Eric Fairweather (2014-15, Londonderry High School), and Trevor Knight (2013-14, Nashua High School South) among the state's list of former award winners.

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