

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Daxton Hill of Booker T. Washington High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year**. Hill is the third Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Booker T. Washington 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 Hill as Oklahoma'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, Hill 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, 190-pound senior safety and wide receiver recorded 93 tackles, nine tackles for loss and two forced fumbles this past season, leading the Hornets (8-4) to the Class 6A-II semifinals. Hill also caught 13 passes for 360 yards and seven touchdowns. Ranked as the nation's No. 12 recruit in the Class of 2019 by 247Sports.com, he has been selected to play in the 2019 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Hill has volunteered locally on behalf of his church's youth programs. "Dax Hill is a real game-changer on the field," said Dustin Kinard, head coach at Page High School. "He's a very sure tackler and he can take away your best skill player by playing man-on defense."

Hill has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Hill joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Payton Scott (2017-18, Charles Page High School), Brandon George (2016-17, Jones High School), Mason Fine (2015-16 & 2014-15, Locust Grove High School) and Cameron Batson (2013-14, Millwood High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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