

NORTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Dylan Poirier of North Kingstown High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year**. Poirier is the fourth Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year to be chosen from North Kingstown 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 Poirier as Rhode Island'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, Poirier 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-2, 255-pound senior defensive end and offensive tackle led the Skippers to an 11-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Poirier recorded 59 tackles, including 14 for loss and nine sacks for a defense that allowed just 13.8 points per game. A 2017 First Team All-State selection, he also produced 29 quarterback hurries and blocked four kicks.

Poirier has volunteered locally for multiple charity fun runs, and has donated his time at a homeless shelter and food bank. "Dylan was an impact player on the field this fall," said Tom Centore, head coach of Cranston East High School. "He was someone you had to game-plan around and be aware where he was on the field at all times."

Poirier has maintained a B average 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.

Poirier joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Football Players of the Year Will Such (2017-18, Cranston High School West), Kwity Paye (2016-17, Bishop Hendricken High School), Nick Andreozzi (2015-16, East Greenwich High School), Alfred Dorbor (2014-15, St. Raphael Academy), and Matt Sewall (2013-14, Portsmouth High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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