

**O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Canyon Bauer of O'Gorman High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year**. Bauer is the fourth Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from O'Gorman 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 Bauer as South Dakota'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, Bauer 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, 190-pound senior wide receiver caught 62 passes for 922 yards and 16 touchdowns this past season, leading the Knights (9-2) to the Class 11AAA semifinals. Bauer also rushed for 166 yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries. A two-time member of the Argus Leader Elite 45 team, he was a three-time All-Conference selection and a two-time All-State honoree.

A student leader in his church community, Bauer has served as a motivational speaker at local elementary schools and has volunteered on behalf of youth sports programs. "Canyon Bauer is a great football player," said Jared Fredenburg, head coach at Lincoln High. "He may be the fastest kid in the state and he's the type of player who can line up at any position on the field and change the game."

Bauer has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at South Dakota 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.

Bauer joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Football Players of the Year Seth Benson (2017-18, Washington High School), Spencer Neugebauer (2016-17, Mitchell High School), Matt Farniok (2015-16, Washington High School), Luke Loudenburg (2014-15, Howard High School), and Caden Quintanilla (2013-14, Lincoln High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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