

**ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 6, 2018) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Jake Cady of St. Johnsbury Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year**. Cady is the first Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Johnsbury Academy.

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 Cady as Vermont'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, Cady 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-3, 185-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,350 yards and 36 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hilltoppers (7-3) to the Division I state semifinal game. Cady also rushed for 645 yards and 15 scores. The 2017 Vermont Football Coaches Association's First Team All-State quarterback, he concluded his prep football career with 64 touchdown passes and 34 rushing TDs.

Cady has volunteered locally along with the rest of his family as part of Team Sullycat, which raises money to benefit families who have loved ones fighting cancer. He has also donated his time as a member of the student leadership team with St. Johnsbury's Campus Life group and as a youth camp counselor. "Jake Cady is the real deal," said Neil Brodeur, head coach of Rice Memorial High. "The kid produced. He was a dangerous player on the field and is a legit next-level player."

Cady has maintained a weighted A-minus 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.

Cady joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Tyler Hamilton (2017-18, Hartford High School), Griff Stalcup (2016-17, Burr & Burton Academy), Carson Leary (2015-16, Otter Valley Union High School), Austin Robinson (2014-15, Middlebury Union High School), and Tanner Contois (2013-14, South Burlington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Cady 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).