

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 6, 2019) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Bryce Young of Mater Dei High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade California Football Player of the Year**. Young is the fourth Gatorade California Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Mater Dei 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 Young as California'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, Young joins an elite group of past state football award-winners, 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 quarterback passed for 4,528 yards and 58 touchdowns this past season, leading the Monarchs (13-1) to the Southern Section Division 1 championship game. Young also rushed for 357 yards and 10 scores, and he tossed 19 TD passes in three postseason games. The 2018 MaxPreps National Junior of the Year, Young has been selected to play in the All-American Bowl next month in San Antonio. He concluded his prep football career with 13,250 passing yards and 152 touchdowns.

Young has consistently volunteered to help special needs children with autism and Down syndrome and has also donated his time to his school's Monarchs 4 Marines supporting the troops and families of the First Marine Division stationed at Camp Pendleton. "Bryce is the best high school quarterback I have ever coached against," said Troy Thomas, head coach of Servite High. "He is very calm and confident in the pocket. He has great accuracy on his throws."

Young has maintained a weighted 3.28 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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 and 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.

Young joins recent Gatorade California Football Players of the Year DJ Uiagalelei (2018-19, St. John Bosco High School), J.T. Daniels (2017-18 and 2016-17, Mater Dei High School), Sean McGrew (2015-16, St. John Bosco High School) and Jake Browning (2014-15, Folsom High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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