

**COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 6, 2019) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Tanner Hollens of Columbine High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year**. Hollens is the second Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Columbine 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 Hollens as Colorado’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, Hollens 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-1, 195-pound senior running back and defensive back had led the Rebels to an 11-2 record and a berth in the Class 5A state championship game against Cherry Creek High at the time of his selection. Hollens rushed for 1,667 yards and 28 touchdowns, averaging 9.7 yards per carry through 13 games. Hollens also totaled 29 tackles and one interception on defense. A First-Team All-Conference selection as a junior, he entered the state final with 3,925 yards and 52 rushing touchdowns in his prep football career.

Hollens has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and as a youth camp counselor. “Tanner Hollens is a threat physically,” said Jeff Braun, head coach of Lakewood High. “He can hurt you both running and receiving.”

Hollens has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Northern Colorado 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.

Hollens joins recent Gatorade Colorado Football Players of the Year Aidan Atkinson (2018-19, Fairview High School), Ty Evans (2017-18, Palmer Ridge High School), Dylan McCaffrey (2016-17, Valor Christian High School), JoJo Domann (2015-16, Pine Creek High School) and Andrew Wingard (2014-15, Ralston Valley High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Hollens 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).

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