

## **HODGSON VO-TECH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **C.J. Henry of Hodgson Vo-Tech High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year**. Henry is the second Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hodgson Vo-Tech 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 Henry as Delaware'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, Henry 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 5-foot-10, 175-pound junior quarterback passed for 2,351 yards and 31 touchdowns this past season, leading the Silver Eagles (12-0) to the Division 1 state championship. Henry completed 115 of 176 passes with just one interception, while also rushing for 362 yards and six touchdowns on 33 carries. He is a three-time All-Conference and two-time All-State selection.

Henry has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels and youth sports programs. "C.J. Henry is the one who makes the offense go at Hodgson," said John Wilson, head coach at St. Georges Technical High School. "He has a strong arm, a quick release, he understands the offense and he can extend plays with his legs. He just doesn't miss the throws that he's supposed to make, and he keeps getting better every year."

Henry has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Henry joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Javon Peace (2018-19, Dover High School), Will Knight (2017-18, Smyrna High School), Nolan Henderson (2016-17, Smyrna High School), Colby Reeder (2015-16, Salesianum School) and Taronn Selby (2014-15, St. Georges Technical High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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