

**SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII 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 **Jayden de Laura of Saint Louis School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year**. De Laura is the twelfth Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Louis 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 de Laura as Hawaii’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, de Laura 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 senior quarterback led the Crusaders to a 12-0 record and the Division I Open state championship this past season. The 6-foot, 180-pound de Laura passed for 3,442 yards and 29 touchdowns, and rushed for 345 yards and eight scores. A Second Team All-Hawaii selection as a junior, he connected for at least two touchdowns in 10 of the Crusaders’ 12 games this fall.

Having volunteered locally as an elementary-school motivational speaker and mentor, de Laura has also donated his time as a youth football coach. “Jayden has had a terrific year,” said Kale Ane, head coach of the Punahou School. “He has done everything an individual can do—run, pass and lead. He is their difference-maker.”

The Crusaders’ signal-caller has maintained a B average in the classroom, and has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Washington 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 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.

De Laura joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Football Players of the Year Dillon Gabriel (2018-19, Mililani High School), Chevan Cordeiro (2017-18, Saint Louis School), Tua Tagovailoa (2016-17, Saint Louis School), Vavae Malepeai (2015-16, Mililani High School) and McKenzie Milton (2014-15, Mililani High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” de Laura 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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