

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Christian Westcott of Lakeshore High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year**. Westcott is the first Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeshore 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 Westcott as Louisiana'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, Westcott 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-2, 205-pound senior quarterback and defensive end had led the Titans to a 13-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A state semifinals against Warren Easton High at the time of his selection. The District 9-4A Offensive Player of the Year, Westcott passed for 2,346 yards and 30 touchdowns while rushing for 1,181 yards and 35 scores through 13 games. The District 8-4A Defensive Player of the Year as a junior, Westcott also totaled 47.5 tackles, including 19.5 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks, four forced fumbles and two interceptions this fall, returning one for a TD entering the state semifinals.

The vice president of Lakeshore's chapter of the Future Farmers of America, Westcott has volunteered locally providing food to the elderly and needy, and he has donated his time with the Miracle League, which helps children with disabilities play baseball. "Christian Westcott is absolutely remarkable," said Chris Blocker, head coach of Fontainebleau High. "He is very hard to defend, and the intensity he brings to the game is second to none. He is one heck of a player."

Westcott has maintained an A 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 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.

Westcott joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Football Players of the Year Derek Stingley Jr. (2018-19, The Dunham School), Slade Bolden (2017-18, West Monroe High School), Keytaon Thompson (2016-17, Landry-Walker High School), Lindsey Scott (2015-16, Zachary High School) and Deshawn Capers-Smith (2014-15, Warren Easton Charter High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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