

**BONNY EAGLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Zach Maturo of Bonny Eagle High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year**. Maturo is the second Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bonny Eagle 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 Maturo as Maine'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, Maturo 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, 170-pound senior running back and defensive back led the Scots to an 11-1 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Maturo rushed for 1,264 yards and 23 touchdowns, including 118 yards and two scores in a 34-21 win over Thornton Academy in the state final. The Class A Player of the Year, Maturo also caught one TD pass and returned a punt for a score. On defense, he compiled 43 tackles and recovered two fumbles.

Maturo has volunteered locally with Bonny Eagle's Breakfast with Santa program, and he has donated his time as a youth football and basketball coach. "Zach is an amazingly competitive player," said Mike Fallon, head coach of Sanford High. "He is a big-time playmaker in all three phases of the game."

Maturo has maintained a 3.47 GPA 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.

Maturo joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Anthony Bracamonte (2018-19, Thornton Academy), Owen Garrard (2017-18, Scarborough High School), Mike Laverriere (2016-17, Thornton Academy), Joe Esposito (2015-16, Portland High School) and Joe Fitzpatrick (2014-15, Cheverus High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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