

**MILTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Kalel Mullings of Milton Academy** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year**. Mullings is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Milton Academy.

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 Mullings as Massachusetts' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Mullings 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, 230-pound senior linebacker and running back recorded 51 tackles, four sacks and three interceptions this past season, leading the Mustangs (8-1) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Mike Silipo Bowl. Mullings also rushed for 509 yards and 12 touchdowns this fall, averaging 7.8 yards per carry, and caught 33 passes for 358 yards and five scores. He also returned a punt for a TD, and was selected to play in the All-American Bowl in San Antonio next month.

A saxophone player and a member of his school's acapella group, the Miltones, Mullings has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a middle school flag football coach. He has also donated his time as a Milton Academy campus tour guide. "Kalel is a great player," said Jeff Toussaint, head coach of Thayer Academy. "He's all over the field. He's so fast, strong and physical. He is unbelievably explosive. He is simply a dominant high school player."

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

Mullings joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Football Players of the Year Mike Sainristil (2018-19, Everett High School), Sal Frelick (2017-18, Lexington High School), Bobby Maimaron (2016-17, Duxbury High School), Danny Dalton (2015-16, Marshfield High School) and Joe Gaziano (2014-15, Xaverian Brothers High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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