

**MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Cameron Martinez of Muskegon High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Michigan Football Player of the Year**. Martinez is the second Gatorade Michigan Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Muskegon 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 Martinez as Michigan'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, Martinez 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-11, 183-pound senior quarterback rushed for 2,124 yards and 36 touchdowns on 264 carries this past season, leading the Big Reds (13-1) to the Division 3 state championship game. Martinez completed 64 of 109 passes for 1,258 yards and 11 touchdowns against just four interceptions. A four-time All-State honoree, he's twice been selected as the MLive state Player of the Year.

A devoted member of his church community, Martinez has volunteered locally on behalf of a women's shelter and food-donation drives to support the needy. "Cameron Martinez is an unbelievable player," said Casey Longo, head coach at East Grand Rapids High. "You can execute near-perfectly and have him bottled up for what should be a big loss, and he'll find a way to turn it into a big gain. His speed is elite, but his strength is overlooked; he can break tackles and he is challenging to bring down."

Martinez has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Ohio 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.

Martinez joins recent Gatorade Michigan Football Players of the Year Dequan Finn (2018-19, Martin Luther King High School), La'Darius Jefferson (2017-18, Muskegon High School), Donovan Peoples-Jones (2016-17, Cass Technical High School), Tony Poljan (2015-16, Lansing Catholic High School) and Alex Malzone (2014-15, Brother Rice High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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