

**LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Casey Filkins of Lake Oswego High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year**. Filkins is the fourth Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Oswego 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 Filkins as Oregon’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, Filkins 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, 195-pound senior running back had led the Lakers to an 11-2 record and a berth in the Class 6A state championship game at the time of his selection. Filkins rushed for 2,262 yards and 37 touchdowns through 13 games. He also caught 20 passes for 210 yards and a score, and threw for 353 yards and three TDs. The 2018 Class 6A Player of the Year and state final MVP, he’s been selected to play in the All-American Bowl in San Antonio next month.

Filkins has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit ALS research, and has also donated his time as a peer tutor and a youth football referee. “Casey is one of the best we have ever played against,” said Shawn Stanley, head coach of West Salem High School. “Without him, that team is done after Round 1. The best part is that he doesn’t say a word. He doesn’t have to—his play speaks for itself. He could line up at any position other than offensive line and be an All-State player.”

Filkins has maintained a weighted 4.05 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Filkins joins recent Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Nathan Overholt (2018-19, Wilsonville High School), Trey Lowe (2017-18, Jesuit High School), and Tim Tawa (2016-17, 2015-16, and 2014-15, West Linn High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Filkins 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).