

NORTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **James Osmanski of North Kingstown High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year**. Osmanski is the fifth Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year to be chosen from North Kingstown 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 Osmanski as Rhode Island'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, Osmanski 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, 175-pound senior quarterback led the Skippers to an 11-1 record and the Division I Super Bowl championship this past season. Osmanski passed for 2,807 yards and 34 touchdowns, and also rushed for 546 yards and 15 scores. In three postseason games, the two-time Super Bowl MVP piled up 15 touchdowns, including two passing and two rushing in a 28-19 win over Cranston West in the title game.

Osmanski has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer research. He has also donated his time selling Christmas trees for a local tree farm in addition to serving as a youth football coach. "James' toughness is, without question, the best in the state," said Jay Monteiro, head coach of East Providence High School. "The ability to see the field and make the right reads at QB is always tough for a high-school athlete, and James makes it look easy and effortless."

Osmanski has maintained a weighted 3.46 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. 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.

Osmanski joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Football Players of the Year Dylan Poirier (2018-19, North Kingstown High School), Will Such (2017-18, Cranston High School West), Kwity Paye (2016-17, Bishop Hendricken High School), Nick Andreozzi (2015-16, East Greenwich High School) and Alfred Dorbor (2014-15, St. Raphael Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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