

**T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Garrett Stout of T.F. Riggs High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year**. Stout is the first Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from T.F. Riggs 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 Stout as South Dakota'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, Stout 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-1, 185-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,446 yards and 38 touchdowns this past season, leading the Governors (12-0) to the Class 11AA state championship. Stout completed 150 of 231 passes with just three interceptions, while also rushing for 1,564 yards and 23 touchdowns on 128 carries. Captain of the Argus Leader Elite 45 team, he is a two-time All-State and All-Conference selection.

Stout has served as an elementary school mentor and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Garrett Stout is maybe the best player I've coached against in my 12-plus years," said Chris Koletzky, head coach at Sturgis Brown High School. "He has great speed and he's one of the strongest quarterbacks I've seen. He's head and shoulders above anyone else in South Dakota."

Stout has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at South Dakota 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.

Stout joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Football Players of the Year Canyon Bauer (2018-19, O'Gorman High School), Seth Benson (2017-18, Washington High School), Spencer Neugebauer (2016-17, Mitchell High School), Matt Farniok (2015-16, Washington High School) and Luke Loudenburg (2014-15, Howard High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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