

**SOUTH-DOYLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Elijah Young of South-Doyle High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year**. Young is the first Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from South-Doyle 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 Young as Tennessee'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, Young 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, 180-pound senior running back rushed for 2,170 yards and 39 touchdowns on 245 carries this past season, leading the Cherokees (9-4) to the Class 5A quarterfinals. Young also caught 15 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns, and averaged 28.0 yards per kickoff return. A two-time All-Conference selection, he was named the Class 5A Tennessee Titans Mr. Football.

A member of the National Honor Society, Young has served as a peer tutor in his school. "Elijah Young stacks up with some of the best that I've ever seen," said Rob Black, head coach at Fulton High School. "He's a speed back with power and aggressiveness, and has proven that he can catch the ball out of the backfield too."

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

Young joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Eric Gray (2018-19 and 2017-18, Lausanne Collegiate School), JaCoby Stevens (2016-17, Oakland High School), Dillon Mitchell (2015-16, White Station High School) and Ke'Shawn Vaughn (2014-15, Pearl-Cohn High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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