

CORNER CANYON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Cole Hagen of Corner Canyon High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year**. Hagen is the first Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Corner Canyon 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 Hagen as Utah'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, Hagen 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-2, 185-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,655 yards and 43 touchdowns this past season, leading the Chargers (14-0) to the Class 6A state championship. Hagen completed 213 of 358 passes, and rushed for 1,069 yards and 11 touchdowns on 137 carries. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, he has been invited to play in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Hagen is also president of his church's youth group and has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter as well as the Draper Rehabilitation and Care Center. "Cole Hagen is a tremendous quarterback," said Aaron Behm, head coach at American Fork High School. "He's a good passer who is very good with his feet and very, very smart."

Hagen has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. 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.

Hagen joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Puka Nacua (2018-19, Orem High School), Cammon Cooper (2017-18, Lehi High School), Joshua Davis (2016-17, Alta High School), Simi Fehoko (2015-16, Brighton High School) and Austin Kafentzis (2014-15, Jordan High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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