

BURR & BURTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Joey McCoy of Burr & Burton Academy** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year**. McCoy is the third Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Burr & Burton Academy.

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 McCoy as Vermont'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, McCoy 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 and safety led the Bulldogs to a 10-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. McCoy passed for 3,086 yards and 42 touchdowns, adding 844 yards and 14 scores on the ground. He threw 16 TD passes in three postseason games as BBA won the DI state title in its first season playing in the state's highest classification. McCoy, who was a First-Team All-State pick on offense and defense, racked up 100 tackles and recorded four interceptions.

McCoy launched Burr & Burton's Unified Partners program, supporting athletes with intellectual challenges, and serves as a coach for BBA's Unified basketball team. He has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research, and has donated his time at a homeless shelter and food bank. "Joey is a dual threat, and can run and throw with the best, which made him almost impossible to defend," said Chad Gordon, head coach of Mount Anthony High School. "What makes him even better is he doesn't make mistakes. He is accurate, makes the right reads and elevates the play of the team around him."

McCoy has maintained a weighted 4.74 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.

McCoy joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Jake Cady (2018-19, St. Johnsbury Academy), Tyler Hamilton (2017-18, Hartford High School), Griff Stalcup (2016-17, Burr & Burton Academy), Carson Leary (2015-16, Otter Valley Union High School) and Austin Robinson (2014-15, Middlebury Union High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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