

SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 Coon of Sheridan High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Wyoming Football Player of the Year**. Coon is the eighth Gatorade Wyoming Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Sheridan 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 Coon as Wyoming'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, Coon 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, 195-pound senior running back and linebacker rushed for 1,589 yards and 29 touchdowns on 196 carries this past season, leading the Broncs (11-1) to the Class 4A state championship. Coon also caught 21 passes for 299 yards and six touchdowns, in addition to contributing 81 tackles and three interceptions on defense. He is a three-time All-State selection and a two-time member of the Casper Star-Tribune Super 25.

Coon has volunteered locally on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and youth football programs. "Garrett Coon is a pretty special player," said Mike Apodaca, head coach at Cheyenne Central High School. "He's dominant on both sides of the ball and you have to account for him on every play."

Coon has maintained a 3.48 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.

Coon joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Football Players of the Year Parker Christensen (2018-19, Sheridan High School), Brett Brenton (2017-18, Natrona County High School), Coy Steel (2016-17, Sheridan High School), Theo Dawson (2015-16, Jackson Hole High School) and Christian Mayer (2014-15, Big Horn High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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