

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Jager Burton of Frederick Douglass High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year. Burton is the first Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Frederick Douglass 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 Burton as Kentucky's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Burton 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-4, 265-pound senior tackle led the Broncos to a 7-2 record and the Class 5A state semifinals. Burton amassed 78 knockdown blocks and paved the way for an offense that averaged 323 yards and 38.7 points per game. Winner of the Paul Hornung Award as the state's top player, he is a three-time All-State honoree and was selected for the 2021 All-American Bowl.

A member of his school's student leadership council, Burton has volunteered locally on behalf of the Herrington Lake Conservation League and youth football camps. "Jager Burton is the best lineman I've seen in a very long time," said Doug Charles, head coach at Lexington Christian High. "He's blessed with great size, great work ethic and a tremendous football IQ. He's simply a dominant player with a great motor, a force that you rarely see at the high school level."

Burton has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Kentucky this 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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Burton joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Football Players of the Year Michael Mayer (2019-20, Covington Catholic High School), Wandale Robinson (2018-19, Western Hills High School), Rondale Moore (2017-18, Trinity High School), and Jamale Carothers (2016-17, Bowling Green High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Burton has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Burton is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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