

**LEAVITT AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Wyatt Hathaway of Leavitt Area High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year. Hathaway is the first Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Leavitt Area 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 Hathaway as Maine'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, Hathaway 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-10, 170-pound senior quarterback and defensive back passed for 4,862 yards and 51 touchdowns during the Hornets' 7-on-7 season that replaced Maine's regular football campaign due to pandemic-related protocols. As a junior in 2019, Hathaway led Leavitt to a 12-0 record and the Class C state championship. He threw for 1,804 yards and 19 touchdowns while running for 776 yards and 10 scores. He was the 2019 Sun Journal Regional Player of the Year and the Portland Press Herald First Team All-State quarterback.

A youth mentor, Hathaway has volunteered locally as a youth football and basketball coach. "Wyatt is certainly a special football player," said Sean Green, head coach of Cape Elizabeth High. "What makes Wyatt so special is his unique combination of football acumen, playmaking abilities and a confidence and swagger that is clearly infectious among his teammates."

Hathaway has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. He will attend St. Joseph's (Me.) College, where he will play basketball, beginning 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.

Hathaway joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Zach Maturo (2019-20, Bonny Eagle High School), Anthony Bracamonte (2018-19, Thornton Academy), Owen Garrard (2017-18, Scarborough High School), and Mike Laverriere (2016-17, Thornton Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Hathaway has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Hathaway 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, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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