

**REED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Elijah Tau-Tolliver of Reed High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year. Tau-Tolliver is the first Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Reed 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 Tau-Tolliver as Nevada'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, Tau-Tolliver 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-1, 185-pound senior running back and linebacker led the Raiders to a 3-2 record during an abbreviated spring season. Tau-Tolliver rushed for 641 yards and five touchdowns, averaging 8.2 yards per carry, and he also had a touchdown reception and returned a kickoff for a score. Defensively, Tau-Tolliver recorded 27 tackles and two sacks. The Class 5A Northern Region Offensive Player of the Year, he concluded his prep football career with 2,404 rushing yards and 39 total touchdowns.

Tau-Tolliver has volunteered locally as a youth football coach, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Elijah was a threat to make a big play every time he touched the ball," said Rob Hummel, head coach of Spanish Springs High. "All of our focus defensively against Reed was on containing him."

Tau-Tolliver has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at California State University, Sacramento 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.

Tau-Tolliver joins recent Gatorade Nevada Football Players of the Year Rome Odunze (2019-20, Bishop Gorman High School), Cade McNamara (2018-19 & 2017-18, Damonte Ranch High School), and Tate Martell (2016-17, Bishop Gorman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Tau-Tolliver has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Tau-Tolliver 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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