

**ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Audric Estime of St. Joseph Regional High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year. Estime is the fourth Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph Regional 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 Estime as New Jersey'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, Estime 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, 215-pound senior running back rushed for 1,838 yards and 22 touchdowns on 185 carries this past season, leading the Green Knights to a 6-2 record. Estime also caught 14 passes for 185 yards and two touchdowns. A First Team All-State selection, he was named NJ.com Player of the Year.

A devoted member of his church community, Estime has volunteered locally on behalf of youth football programs. "Audric Estime has been the best back in the state of New Jersey for the past two seasons," said Bill Fitzgerald, head coach at Seton Hall Prep. "He's big, with breakaway speed, and he's got excellent hands when he's used in the passing game."

Estime has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Estime joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Football Players of the Year Fadil Diggs (2019-20, Woodrow Wilson High School), Howard Cross (2018-19, St. Joseph Regional High School), and Devin Leary (2017-18 & 2016-17, Timber Creek Regional High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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