

**ROGER BACON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 Corey Kiner of Roger Bacon High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year. Kiner is the first Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Roger Bacon 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 Kiner as Ohio'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, Kiner 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, 210-pound senior running back rushed for 1,866 yards and 35 touchdowns this past season, leading the Spartans (10-1) to the Division V state semifinals. Kiner averaged 10.8 yards per carry and rushed for at least two scores in 10 of 11 games. The Ohio Football Coaches Association's Mr. Football winner, Kiner also caught a touchdown pass and returned a kickoff for a score. He concluded his prep football career with 7,130 yards and 116 touchdowns on the ground. His 125 total touchdowns and 772 total points each rank third in state history.

A member of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program, Kiner has volunteered locally as a school ambassador and has donated his time as a youth football coach. "Corey is the best football player that I have ever seen in person," said K.C. Woods, head coach of Cincinnati Hills Christian High. "He is strong, powerful, explosive, fast and incredibly hard to tackle. It was hard not to be in awe watching him."

Kiner has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Louisiana State University 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.

Kiner joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Ethan Wright (2019-20, Manchester High School), Cade Stover (2018-19, Lexington High School), Ra'veion Hargrove (2017-18, Trotwood-Madison High School), and Michael Warren (2016-17, Central Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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