

**BEGGS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Kendal Daniels of Beggs High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year. Daniels is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Beggs 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 Daniels as Oklahoma'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, Daniels 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, 205-pound senior safety and wide receiver recorded 120 tackles, seven sacks and four interceptions this past season, leading the Golden Demons (10-3) to the Class 2A semifinals. Daniels also caught 38 passes for 642 yards and 10 touchdowns. A two-time All-State honoree, he was a MaxPreps Second Team All-American and was selected for the 2021 All-American Bowl.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Daniels has volunteered locally feeding needy families. "Kendal Daniels is special," said Morris High coach Robert Daniels. "He does everything right on the football field. He's got great ball skills and great closing speed, and he makes plays that you see the guys who play on Sundays make."

Daniels has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Daniels joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Brennan Presley (2019-20, Bixby High School), Daxton Hill (2018-19, Booker T. Washington High School), Payton Scott (2017-18, Charles Page High School), and Brandon George (2016-17, Jones High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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