

**DAVID CROCKETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Prince Kollie of David Crockett High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year. Kollie is the first Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from David Crockett 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 Kollie as Tennessee'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, Kollie 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-2, 208-pound senior linebacker and running back rushed for 1,562 yards and 26 touchdowns on 181 carries this past season, leading the Pioneers (9-3) to the second round of the Class 5A state tournament. Kollie also caught 13 passes for 290 yards and three TDs in addition to recording 109 tackles and 11 tackles for loss on defense. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, he was selected as Class 5A Mr. Football and was named a MaxPreps Second Team All-American.

A devoted member of his church community, Kollie has volunteered locally on behalf of food donation drives and youth sports camps. "Kollie is scary when you see him on film, and even scarier in person," said Clark Duncan, head coach at South Doyle High School. "I don't think there's a better football player in Tennessee. He's fast and very athletic. He can cover from sideline to sideline and he'll really hit you. He's got great tools on both sides of the ball."

Kollie has maintained a 3.47 GPA 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.

Kollie joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Elijah Young (2019-20, South-Doyle High School), Eric Gray (2018-19 & 2017-18, Lausanne Collegiate School), and JaCoby Stevens (2016-17, Oakland High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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