

**ANDREAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE INDIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 7, 2021) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Drayk Bowen of Andrean High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year**. Bowen is the first Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Andrean 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 Bowen as Indiana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Bowen joins an elite alumni association of state 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, 215-pound junior linebacker and running back led the Fighting 59ers to a 12-3 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Bowen recorded 105 tackles, three sacks and three interceptions, returning one for a touchdown. Offensively, he rushed for 965 yards and 18 touchdowns, including 171 yards and three scores in Andrean's 21-9 win over Evansville Mater Dei High in the state final.

Bowen has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Drayk is a physical specimen that creates nightmares for both offensive and defensive coordinators," said Keith Kilmer, head coach of Lowell High School. "The combination of size and speed make him someone you had to game-plan for."

Bowen has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame beginning in the fall of 2023.

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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Bowen joins recent Gatorade Indiana Football Players of the Year Carson Steele (2020-21, Center Grove High School), Charlie Spegal (2019-20, New Palestine High School), David Bell (2018-19, Warren Central High School), and Tyrone Tracy (2017-18, Decatur Central High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Bowen has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Bowen is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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