

**LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 7, 2021) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Germie Bernard of Liberty High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year**. Bernard is the second Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty 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 Bernard as Nevada'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, Bernard 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, 200-pound senior wide receiver caught 53 passes for 956 yards and 12 touchdowns this past season, leading the Patriots (10-2) to the Class 5A Southern Region championship game. Bernard also ran for 452 yards and four scores, averaging 12.2 yards per carry, and he returned three punts and one kickoff for scores. Defensively, he had one interception, returning it for a touchdown.

Bernard has volunteered locally with a youth literacy program and as a youth football coach. He has also donated his time at homeless shelters and food banks. "Germie Bernard was an 'X-factor' type player," said Gus McNair, head coach of Canyon Springs High School. "He had to line up at quarterback, running back and wide receiver to help his team, and he made plays from all those positions."

Bernard has maintained a weighted 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at the University of Washington next 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Bernard joins recent Gatorade Nevada Football Players of the Year Elijah Tau-Tolliver (2020-21, Reed High School), Rome Odunze (2019-20, Bishop Gorman High School), and Cade McNamara (2018-19 & 2017-18, Damonte Ranch 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, Bernard 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. Bernard 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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