

**MILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **LeQuint Allen of Millville High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year**. Allen is the first Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Millville 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 Allen as New Jersey'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, Allen 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, 190-pound senior running back and linebacker led the Thunderbolts to a 10-1 record and a berth in the Group 4 regional championship game at the time of his selection. Allen rushed for 1,658 yards and 22 touchdowns on 189 carries through 11 games, and hauled in 13 passes for 204 yards and three TDs. He also led the Millville defense, recording 129 tackles, 13 tackles for a loss, nine sacks and five interceptions. Allen is an All-State, All-South Jersey and All-Conference selection.

Allen has volunteered locally on behalf of the Millville Midget Football League. "LeQuint Allen is the real deal," said Tim Gushue, head coach at Shawnee High School. "He can run you over, he can run away from you, he's just a difference-maker. He's a really good defensive player too. His physicality is unparalleled. There are some great players in New Jersey, but he's the best I've seen."

Allen has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Syracuse University 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.

Allen joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Football Players of the Year Audric Estime (2020-21, St. Joseph Regional High School), Fadil Diggs (2019-20, Woodrow Wilson High School), Howard Cross (2018-19, St. Joseph Regional High School), and Devin Leary (2017-18, Timber Creek Regional 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, Allen 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. Allen 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).