

**MARYSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Gabe Powers of Marysville High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year**. Powers is the first Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Marysville 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 Powers as Ohio'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, Powers 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-4, 235-pound senior linebacker and running back compiled 90 tackles and six sacks this past season, leading the Monarchs (12-1) to the Division 1, Region 2 tournament championship game. Powers, the 2020 Division I Defensive Player of the Year, also recorded 17 tackles for a loss and forced four fumbles. Invited to both the U.S. Army All-American Game and Under Armour All-American Game, he rushed for 877 yards and 14 scores on offense while also returning two punts for TDs and catching a touchdown pass.

Powers has volunteered locally as a youth football and basketball coach and mentor, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Gabe Powers is a tremendous football player," said John Santagata, head coach of Hilliard Darby High School. "He contributes in every way on the football field—offense, defense and special teams. He can make things happen regardless of blocking. He's a true difference-maker."

Powers has maintained a weighted 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at Ohio State 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.

Powers joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Corey Kiner (2020-21, Roger Bacon High School), Ethan Wright (2019-20, Manchester High School), Cade Stover (2018-19, Lexington High School), and Ra'veion Hargrove (2017-18, Trotwood-Madison 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, Powers 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. Powers 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.