

**BIXBY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Braylin Presley of Bixby High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year**. Presley is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bixby 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 Presley as Oklahoma'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, Presley 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 5-foot-8, 170-pound senior running back led the Spartans to a 12-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A-II state championship game at the time of his selection. Presley rushed for 947 yards and 14 touchdowns on 95 carries through 12 games, also catching 50 passes for 632 yards and seven touchdowns. The Tulsa World Player of the Year as a junior, he is a three-time All-State honoree.

Presley has volunteered locally on behalf of the Bixby Outreach Center, helping families in need. "Braylin Presley looks like a human (video game) cheat code," said Jason Sport, head coach at Bartlesville High School. "He has Barry Sanders-like ability as a runner and unbelievable quickness. Great leg strength and vision, and he can cut, stop and start on a dime."

Presley has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Oklahoma 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.

Presley joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Kendal Daniels (2020-21, Beggs High School), Brennan Presley (2019-20, Bixby High School), Daxton Hill (2018-19, Booker T. Washington High School), and Payton Scott (2017-18, Charles Page 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, Presley 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. Presley 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.

###