

**CORNER CANYON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Cody Hagen of Corner Canyon High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year**. Hagen is the third Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Corner Canyon 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 Hagen as Utah'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, Hagen 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-1, 185-pound senior wide receiver caught 89 passes for 1,805 yards and 23 touchdowns this past season, leading the Chargers (12-2) to the Class 6A state championship game. Hagen averaged 20.3 yards per reception and ranked second in the nation in receiving yards, according to MaxPreps. He is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Also a track standout and a leader in his church youth group, Hagen has tutored special needs students in his school and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Draper Rehabilitation and Care Center and a homeless shelter. "Hagen has a great combination of speed and quickness," said Ed Larson, head coach at Lehi High School. "He's a tough player with great hands who will go over the middle to catch a ball."

Hagen has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Hagen joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Jaxson Dart (2020-21, Corner Canyon High School), Cole Hagen (2019-20, Corner Canyon High School), Puka Nacua (2018-19, Orem High School), and Cammon Cooper (2017-18, Lehi 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, Hagen 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. Hagen 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.