BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 6, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Micah Alejado** of **Bishop Gorman High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year**. Alejado is the eigth Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Alejado 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 January, Alejado joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 5-foot-11, 175-pound junior quarterback led the Gaels to a 13-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Alejado threw for 3,403 yards and a state-record 53 touchdowns with just two interceptions, completing 170-of-224 attempts for a completion percentage of 75.9. He also rushed for 335 yards and three scores. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, Alejado was a 2021 MaxPreps.com Sophomore All-American selection. He concluded his junior year with 6,347 passing yards and 89 touchdowns in his prep football career.

Alejado has volunteered locally making gift baskets for the less fortunate, and he has donated his time as a youth math tutor. "Micah is the leader of our offense," said Brent Browner, head coach of Bishop Gorman High School. "He has put together one of the greatest single seasons we've seen throwing the football this year. There is no one better to have as the face of our football program."

Alejado has maintained a weighted 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Alejado joins recent Gatorade Nevada Football Players of the Year Germie Bernard (2021-22, Liberty High School), Elijah Tau-Tolliver (2020-21, Reed High School), Rome Odunze (2019-20, Bishop Gorman High School), and Cade McNamara (2018-19, Damonte Ranch High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.