

## **HUTTO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 6, 2018) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Chase Griffin of Hutto High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year**. Griffin is the first Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hutto 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 Griffin as Texas'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, Griffin joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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-10, 190-pound senior quarterback passed for 4,051 yards and 51 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hippos (11-1) to the Class 5A regional semifinals. Griffin completed 268 of 373 passes with just five interceptions, while rushing for 415 yards and eight touchdowns on 82 carries. The Central Texas Player of the Year and District Offensive MVP, he is an All-State and All-State Academic honoree and a finalist for Mr. Texas Football.

Also a talented violinist, Griffin was the Texas representative for the U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fidelis All-American program and has volunteered as a tutor in his school system. "Chase Griffin is as accurate and efficient as any quarterback I've ever coached with or against," said Jeff Neill, head coach at West Mesquite High. "He's a great leader, great playmaker, great character. I'm very impressed with him on every level, just a fantastic player."

Griffin has maintained a weighted 4.69 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at UCLA 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Griffin joins recent Gatorade Texas Football Players of the Year Spencer Sanders (2017-18, Ryan High School), Shawn Robinson (2016-17, DeSoto High School), Tren'Davian Dickson (2015-16, Navasota High School), Kyler Murray (2014-15 & 2013-14, Allen High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Griffin has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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 [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).