

**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 6, 2018) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Caleb Williams of Gonzaga College High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year. Williams is the seventh Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Williams as District of Columbia'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, Williams 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 HS, Texas) and Christian McCaffrey (2012-13, 2013-14, Valor Christian High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound sophomore quarterback passed for 2,624 yards and 26 touchdowns this past season, leading the Eagles (9-3) to their first Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship since 2002. Williams completed 137 of 246 passes with seven interceptions, while also rushing for 394 yards and 10 touchdowns on 102 carries. MVP of the WCAC and a two-time All-Conference selection, he accounted for seven touchdowns in Gonzaga's 46-43, title-game victory over rival DeMatha.

Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and a senior citizen's center. "Caleb Williams has the complete package," said Andy Stefanelli, head coach at Our Lady of Good Counsel High. "He's got phenomenal arm strength, a very quick release and he's very accurate. He's a good decision-maker, he can make all the throws and he's mobile enough to make plays with his legs. He's as good or better than any quarterback we've seen."

Williams has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Football Players of the Year Kevin Doyle (2017-18, St. John's College High School), Kasim Hill (2016-17, St. John's College High School), Terrell Hall (2015-16, St. John's College High School), Richie Petitbon (2014-15, Gonzaga College High School), and D'Andre Payne (2013-14, H.D. Woodson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Williams 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.