

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Tariq Boney of St. John's College High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Boney as District of Columbia's best high school football player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, LA), Nick Singleton (2021-22, Governor Mifflin High School, PA) and Keelon Russell (2024-25, Duncanville High School, TX).

The 6-foot-3, 245-pound senior defensive linemen recorded 48 tackles and 13 sacks this past season, leading the Cadets (6-5) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Capital Division tournament semifinals. Boney also made 22 tackles for loss and forced two fumbles, returning one for a touchdown. The WCAC Defensive Player of the Year, he is an Under Armour All-American honoree and a two-time First Team All-WCAC selection.

Boney has volunteered locally as a peer minister at St. John's College High School, and he has donated his time as a youth football and basketball coach. "Tariq was an absolute menace to face this year," said Andy Stefanelli, head coach of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. "He was the hardest player in the league to gameplan against."

Boney has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Michigan next fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

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 Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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