

**BRISTOL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 7, 2021) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Victor Rosa of Bristol Central High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year**. Rosa is the fourth Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bristol Central 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 Rosa as Connecticut'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, Rosa 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, 195-pound senior quarterback and free safety rushed for 2,728 yards and 41 touchdowns this past season, leading the Rams (9-2) to the Class L state quarterfinals. Rosa ran for more than 200 yards nine times, including a 409-yard effort with eight TDs in a 68-50 win over Tolland High. He also passed for 849 yards and eight scores. Defensively, he totaled 50 tackles and forced two fumbles.

The Class L state champion in the 200-meter dash as a junior, Rosa has volunteered locally with the McCabe Waters Little League and the Bristol Central High Boosters Club. "Victor Rosa is an absolute monster on the field," said Chris Machol, head coach of Farmington High School. "What makes him good is that he has a combination of breakaway speed, power, agility and vision. He is one of the better players I have coached against in my 12 years here."

Rosa has maintained a weighted 4.34 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Rosa joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Football Players of the Year Wilfredo Aybar (2020-21, Cheshire Academy), Jack Wallace (2019-20, St. Joseph High School), Cornelius Johnson (2018-19, Brunswick School), and Spencer Lockwood (2017-18, Killingly 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, Rosa 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. Rosa 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).