

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Braden Davis of Middletown High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year**. Davis is the third Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Davis as Delaware'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, Davis 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-5, 195-pound senior quarterback had led the Cavaliers to an 8-1 record and the semifinals of the Class 3A state tournament at the time of his selection. Davis completed 114 of 156 passes for 1,872 yards and 20 touchdowns through nine games, with just three interceptions. He also rushed for 638 yards and three scores on 46 carries. An All-State selection as a sophomore, Davis was named the District Offensive Player of the Year.

Davis has volunteered locally on behalf of Stockings for Soldiers and Habitat for Humanity. "Braden Davis is a very talented kid with great size," said John Wilson, head coach at St. Georges Technical High School. "He has a strong arm and a real presence on the field. He's accurate and can make some really pretty throws."

Davis has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Aidan Sanchez (2020-21, Smyrna High School), C.J. Henry (2019-20, Hodgson Vo-Tech), Javon Peace (2018-19, Dover High School), and Will Knight (2017-18, Smyrna 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, Davis 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. Davis 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).

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