

**ARCHBISHOP CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Nyckoles Harbor of Archbishop Carroll High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year**. Harbor is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Carroll 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 Harbor 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, Harbor 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-6, 225-pound junior defensive end and wide receiver had led the Lions to a 12-1 record and a berth in the D.C. State Athletic Association championship game at the time of his selection. Harbor recorded 27 tackles for loss, 14 sacks and 51 quarterback hurries on defense through 13 games, also forcing five fumbles and blocking two punts. Offensively, he caught 14 passes for 264 yards and five touchdowns. A two-time All-Conference selection, Harbor was named co-Defensive Player of the Year in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Metro Division.

Harbor has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and Archbishop Carroll's annual food drive. "Harbor is a game-changer," said Kenny Lucas, head coach at Bishop O'Connell High. "His presence on the field changes the scope of the game on both sides of the ball. You have to know where he is at all times."

Harbor has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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. 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.

Harbor joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Football Players of the Year Trey Jamison (2020-21, Gonzaga College High School), Rakim Jarrett (2019-20, St. John's College High School), Caleb Williams (2018-19, Gonzaga College High School), and Kevin Doyle (2017-18, St. John's College 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, Harbor 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. Harbor 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).