

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

CHICAGO (June 16, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Nick Laffey** of **St. John's College High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Laffey is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's 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 Laffey as District of Columbia's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Laffey joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02 & 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot, 170-pound junior forward scored 23 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Cadets (13-3-1) to the DCSAA Tournament championship game. The Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Laffey recorded a point in 15 of St. John's 17 games and compiled four hat tricks. He was a Washington Post First Team All-Met selection.

Laffey has volunteered locally at a food pantry and as a youth soccer coach. He has also donated his time to a program that helps disabled children play soccer. "Nick's athleticism is through the roof," said Sal Caccavale, head coach of St. John's High. "The kid loves to play and finds great joy in suffering the result. Nick will go on to score many more goals at the next level as he is ruthless and fearless in and around the box."

Laffey has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this 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.

Laffey joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Pandelis Margaronis (2020-21, St. John's College High School), Ryan Elie (2019-20 & 2018-19, Gonzaga College High School), and Theo Biddle (2017-18, Wilson 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, Laffey 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. Laffey 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.