

**JONATHAN LAW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 6, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **John Neider** of **Jonathan Law High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year**. Neider is the first Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Jonathan Law 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 Neider 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 January, Neider joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound senior receiver-turned-quarterback led the Lawmen to a 10-2 season—the most single-season victories in program history—and the Class M state semifinals this past fall. Neider completed 155 of 236 pass attempts (66 percent) for 2,289 yards and 30 touchdowns with six interceptions. He also rushed for 1,696 yards and 24 touchdowns on 131 carries, averaging 12.9 yards per attempt, and caught a 16-yard touchdown pass.

Neider has volunteered locally at a charity car wash to raise money for cancer research. He also has donated his time reading to children at his former elementary school. “His ability to run made him such a dangerous player. Whether it was designed runs or scrambles, he had the size, speed, and physicality to really hurt you whenever he took off running,” said Mark T. Sheehan High School head coach John Ferrazzi. “He also proved to be extremely effective as a passer. He has good arm strength and showed good accuracy distributing the ball to many receivers. [Jonathan Law High School] would be a completely different team without him.”

Neider has maintained a 4.18 weighted GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he remained undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Neider joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Football Players of the Year Victor Rosa (2021-22, Bristol Central High School), Wilfredo Aybar (2020-21, Cheshire Academy), Jack Wallace (2019-20, St. Joseph High School), and Cornelius Johnson (2018-19, Brunswick School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade’s Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners, supporting Gatorade’s ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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