

**SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Yamir Knight** of **Smyrna High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year**. Knight is the fourth Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Smyrna 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 Knight 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 January, Knight 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 5-foot-9, 180-pound senior wide receiver and running back led the Eagles to a 12-1 record and the 3A state championship this past season. Knight rushed for 787 yards and 16 touchdowns, caught 56 passes for 870 yards and 10 touchdowns and also threw for three scores. In Smyrna High School’s 52-7 win over Dover High School in the title game, Knight had two touchdown runs, one touchdown reception and one touchdown pass. He also threw for a two-point conversion and ran for another.

Knight has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. He also has donated his time as the coach of an 8-and-under flag football team. “He is a threat every time the ball touches his hands, both as a runner and receiver,” said St. Georges Technical High School head coach John Wilson. “He is electric, dynamic, fast and physical. He can score any time he touches the ball.”

Knight has maintained a 3.6 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he’d made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship this fall at James Madison University, where his older brother, Wayne Knight, is a freshman running back.

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.

Knight joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Braden Davis (2021-22, Middletown High School), Aidan Sanchez (2020-21, Smyrna High School), C.J. Henry (2019-20, Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical High School), and Javon Peace (2018-19, Dover High 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