

**AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 6, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Brandon Inniss** of **American Heritage School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Football Player of the Year**. Inniss is the third Gatorade Florida Football Player of the Year to be chosen from American Heritage 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 Inniss as Florida'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, Inniss 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, 195-pound senior wide receiver and free safety caught 71 passes for 1,319 yards and 15 touchdowns this past season, leading the Patriots (13-2) to the Class 2M state championship game. Inniss also averaged 28.8 yards per kickoff return, returning one for a TD. Defensively, he recorded 10 tackles and one interception. Selected to play in the Adidas All-American Bowl, he is ranked as the nation's No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2023 by Rivals.com.

Inniss has volunteered locally as a youth football coach. "We have gone up against Brandon since he was in the eighth grade," said Matt DuBuc, head coach of Cardinal Gibbons High School. "He plays extremely hard on every play. He is super-talented and is able to score on any mistake you make."

Inniss has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at The Ohio State University 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.

Inniss joins recent Gatorade Florida Football Players of the Year Kenyatta Jackson (2021-22, Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory School), James Williams (2020-21, American Heritage High School), Derek Wingo (2019-20, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), and Marcus Crowley (2018-19, Trinity Christian Academy), 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](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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