

**BISHOP MCDEVITT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Stone Saunders** of **Bishop McDevitt High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year**. Saunders is the third Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop McDevitt 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 Saunders as Pennsylvania'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, Saunders 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 sophomore quarterback led the Crusaders to a 13-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Saunders passed for 3,583 yards and 54 touchdowns, including a championship game-record five TD throws in McDevitt's 41-18 win over Aliquippa High to capture the title. A 2021 Class 4A First Team All-State selection, he concluded his sophomore year with 100 touchdown passes in his prep football career.

A student ambassador at Bishop McDevitt High School, Saunders has volunteered locally as a youth football coach. "Stone Saunders is able to make all the throws and reads (coverages) at a collegiate level," said Josh Borreli, head coach of Lower Dauphin High. "His ability to read [run-pass options] is already far above some of the college quarterbacks I used to coach and coach against."

Saunders has maintained a weighted 3.19 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Saunders joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Players of the Year Nick Singleton (2021-22, Governor Mifflin High School), Kyle McCord (2020-21, St. Joseph's Preparatory School), and Julian Fleming (2019-20 & 2018-19, Southern Columbia Area 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.

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