

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

CHICAGO (June 16, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Nick Laffey** of **St. John's College High School** is the **2022-23 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 Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The District's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 170-pound senior forward scored 17 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Cadets (10-7-1) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference tournament semifinals. A two-time Washington Post First Team All-Met selection, Laffey participated in the High School All-American Game in December. He concluded his prep soccer career with 54 goals and 30 assists.

Laffey has volunteered locally delivering food to families in need through Germantown HELP. He has also donated his time to a program that helps disabled children play soccer. "Nick Laffey is an absolute menace," said Colin Gleason, head coach of The Heights School. "You had to pretty much man-mark him."

Laffey has maintained a weighted 3.65 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Virginia Tech 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.

Two-time winner Laffey joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Pandelis Margaronis (2020-21, St. John's College High School), and Ryan Elie (2019-20 & 2018-19, Gonzaga College 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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