

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

**CHICAGO** (January 3, 2023) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Da'Jaun Riggs** of **St. John's College High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year**. Riggs is the seventh Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Riggs as District of Columbia's best high school football player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.), Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, La.) and Jackson Arnold (2022-23, John H. Guyer High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-10, 200-pound senior running back and wide receiver rushed for 665 yards and six touchdowns this past season, leading the Cadets (5-5) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Upper Division Tournament semifinals. Riggs also caught 26 balls for 399 yards and three scores, passed for two touchdowns and returned a punt for a TD. Ranked as the No. 3 recruit in the District by Rivals, he was a 2022 All-Metro Honorable Mention as a junior.

Riggs has volunteered locally as a youth football coach. "Beyond his abilities as a top-tier running back, Da'Jaun is an exceptional receiver and plays QB when their starter is out," said Any Stefanelli, head coach of Our Lady of Good Counsel High. "His versatility is what makes him so special."

Riggs has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Riggs joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Football Players of the Year Nyckoles Harbor (2022-23 & 2021-22, Archbishop Carroll High School), Trey Jamison (2020-21, Gonzaga College High School), and Rakim Jarrett (2019-20, St. John's College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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).

###