

**WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 3, 2023) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kahnen Daniels** of **West Point High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year**. Daniels is the first Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year to be chosen from West Point 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 Daniels as Mississippi’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 6-foot, 200-pound senior running back led the Green Wave to an 11-3 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Daniels rushed for 2,730 yards and 30 touchdowns, averaging 9.6 yards per carry. He ran for 253 yards and three scores in West Point’s 35-7 win over Laurel High in the state final. The state’s Class 5A Mr. Football, he was selected to play in December’s U.S. Army Bowl.

Daniels has volunteered locally with the Beta Club and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his school’s National Honor Society. “Kahnen is a wonderful football player,” said Chris Chambless, head coach of West Point High. “He’s a great kid and a great leader. You couldn’t ask for more.”

Daniels has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Daniels inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for him to enroll at the University of Florida. He graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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.

Daniels joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Football Players of the Year Isaac Smith (2022-23, Itawamba Agricultural High School), D.J. Smith, Jr. (2021-22, Greenville Christian School), and Ty Keyes (2020-21 & 2019-20, Taylorsville 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 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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