

**PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **David Sanders** of **Providence Day School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Carolina Football Player of the Year**. Sanders is the second Gatorade North Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Providence Day 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 Sanders as North Carolina’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-7, 270-pound junior two-way lineman anchored a front five that blocked for an offense that generated 3,758 passing yards and 8.6 yards per rushing attempt this past season, leading the Chargers (12-1) to the NCISAA Division I state title. Playing all fall with a torn labrum in his shoulder, Sanders graded out at 93 percent on his individual blocking, recording 11 pancake blocks. On defense, he compiled 24 tackles, four sacks and 32 quarterback hurries, also breaking up two passes and both forcing and recovering a fumble. Ranked as the nation’s No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2025 by 247Sports, he was named the Charlotte Independent School Athletic Association’s 2023 Offensive Player of the Year.

President of the PDS Student Diversity Club, Sanders has volunteered on behalf of the Alexander Youth Network for Foster Children and the Grant Williams Family Foundation. He has also served as a student intern with Novant Health Orthopedic Surgery. “David is an exceptional young man and a model student-athlete—he’s also the most gifted player I’ve ever coached,” said Providence Day School head coach Chad Grier. “He can dominate on both sides of the ball and is always a threat to block a kick. When we turn him loose, he’s an unstoppable force and fun to watch. He also has authentic charisma and leadership skills on the field that naturally influences teammates to follow his example. But it’s his ability to remain humble, grounded, hardworking and team-first that truly separates him.”

Sanders has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Sanders joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Football Players of the Year Jadyn Davis (2022-23, Providence Day School), Omarion Hampton (2021-22, Cleveland High School), Jalon Walker (2020-21, Salisbury High School), and Will Shipley (2019-20, Weddington 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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