

**RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 3, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Braden Graham** of **Riverdale High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year**. Graham is the first Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverdale 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 Graham as Tennessee'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-1, 205-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,492 yards and 42 touchdowns this past season, leading the Warriors (10-3) to the Class 6A quarterfinals. Completing 72.8 percent of his throws and averaging 10.0 yards per attempt while throwing just three interceptions, Graham was a finalist for the TSSAA Class 6A Mr. Football award. Rated a three-star recruit by Rivals, he is also ranked by 247Sports, On3 ELITE and Prep RedZone.

Graham has volunteered locally on behalf of Barfield Elementary School and Cason Lane Academy as a student mentor. He has also donated his time as a youth football and basketball coach in addition to working one-on-one with aspiring youth quarterbacks. "Braden is not only a great football player, but he's also a great teammate," said Riverdale High School head coach Will Kriesky. "He really grew throughout the offseason and became the undisputed leader of our team. Braden has a strong work ethic, putting in numerous hours of extra work with his teammates to develop them into a strong team. There's a reason he set the school single-game record for passing yards (340) and touchdowns (six) last fall."

Graham has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Graham joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Arion Carter (2022-23, Smyrna High School), Ty Simpson (2021-22, Westview High School), Prince Kollie (2020-21, David Crockett High School), and Elijah Young (2019-20, South-Doyle 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).

###