

**ARCHBISHOP SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MARYLAND FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 6, 2024) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Malik Washington** of **Archbishop Spalding High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year**. Washington is the first Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Spalding High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Washington as Maryland’s best high school football player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fl.), Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, La.) and DJ Lagway (2023-24, Willis High School, Texas).

The 6-foot-5, 210-pound senior quarterback led the Cavaliers to a 12-0 record and a third-straight Maryland Independent Athletic Association Class A Tournament championship this past season. Washington passed for 2,095 yards and 24 touchdowns in addition to rushing for 330 yards and nine scores. A three-time MIAA Player of the Year, he will participate in the Navy All-American Bowl in January.

Washington has organized and operated a free summer youth football clinic for the past two years. A member of the Archbishop Spalding Black Student Union, he has volunteered locally at elementary school field-day events and as a youth basketball coach. “Malik is incredibly versatile and a real force on the field, both physically and mentally,” said Hakeem Sule, head coach of McDonogh School. “His speed, agility and football IQ make him tough to defend. His presence is always felt on the field.”

Washington has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Maryland next fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Washington joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Aaron Chiles (2023-24, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Jason Moore (2022-23, DeMatha Catholic High School), Derrick Moore (2021-22, Saint Frances Academy) and Demeioun Robinson (2020-21, Quince Orchard 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).