

MVP Featured Athlete

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Gi'Bran Payne

La Salle High School



One of the area's talented football players is La Salle senior Gi'Bran Payne, hoping to get a full season under his belt after an injury-shortened junior campaign. He did manage last season to rush for 235 yards and five touchdowns while recording 181 yards and three TDs receiving and was named second team GCL South. He rumbled for two TDs in this season's opening 20-14 win vs. Colerain.

Gi'Bran enters his senior season with impressive numbers for his career – 1,025 rushing yards, 14 rushing touchdowns, plus 322 receiving yards with six receiving touchdowns, 21 total touchdowns, and 1,910 all-purpose yards. On defense, he has four career sacks, three forced fumbles and two interceptions.

His sophomore year, Gi'Bran was all over the field. He helped lead the Lancers to a magical season with a 13-2 record and the Ohio Div. II state championship. In the championship game win vs. previously undefeated Massillon Washington, Gi'Bran rambled for 133 yards.

During that heralded season, he carried the ball 77 times for 790 yards and nine touchdowns. He also had 141 yards receiving with three touchdowns. He scrambled for 273 additional yards on kickoff returns. He notched 1,316 all-purpose yards. He played defense, too, that year and as a linebacker recorded 41 tackles, including 28 solo tackles, as well as three forced fumbles, four sacks, two interceptions including a "pick six". He was named second team GCL South and second team SWO District Div. II.

Also a record-setting track runner, Gi'Bran was a member of La Salle's 4x100 relay team that won the 2021 Ohio state track championship in a school-record time of 41.64. The 4x100 relay team also won the district title in 42.18. He was also a member of the district champion 4x200 relay team that won in 1:28.64.

A good student active in community service, Gi'Bran had interest from numerous colleges. He chose to play his college football at Indiana University. His favorite athlete and most-like-to-meet is Deion Sanders, favorite entertainer is Kevin Hart, favorite book is *The Blindside* and favorite movies are *Coach Carter* and *Just Mercy*.



NAME: Gi'Bran Payne

GRADUATING YEAR: 2022

SCHOOL: La Salle High School

SPORT: Football-Track

ACHIEVEMENT: Winning a state championship

PARENTS: Greg Gaither-Dannon Payne

HEIGHT: 5'10"-195 lbs.

INFLUENCE: Mom

FUTURE GOAL: Be successful

"Gi'Bran is one of the most gifted athletes I have ever been around. He can score every time he has the ball. As good as he is on the field, he is just as great a person, student and leader off the field. He is a pleasure to be around."

- Pat McLaughlin, Varsity Football Coach

September 14, 2021