

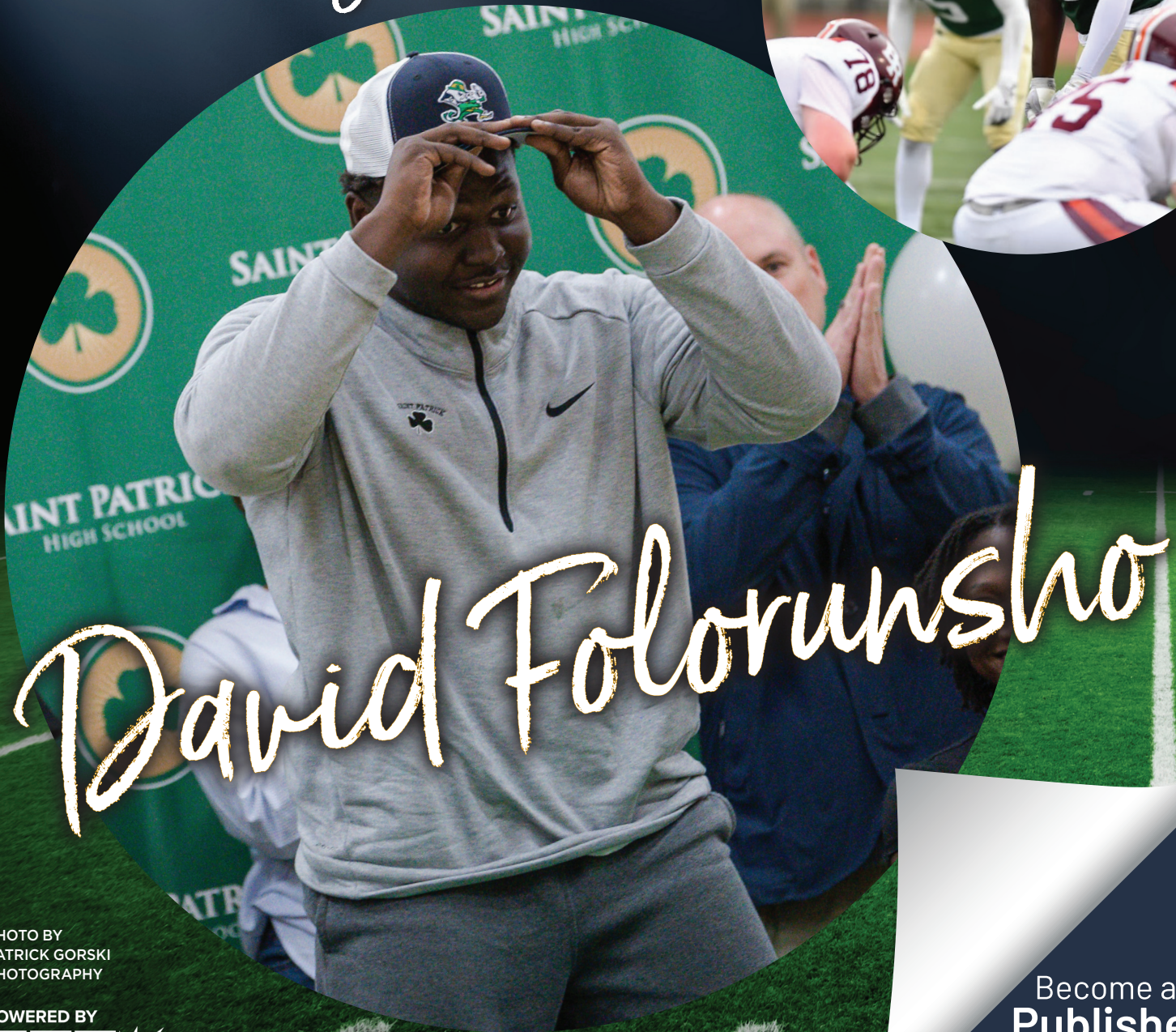
# EDISON PARK

June 2026

## NEIGHBORS

**ST. PATRICK'S STAR  
FOOTBALL PLAYER**

*Makes huge decision*



*David Folorunsho*

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# David Folorunsho

**D**avid Folorunsho wasn't always a football player.

In fact, the St. Patrick High School rising senior was a standout soccer player for the majority of his youth.

But after moving to the United States from Nigeria, the 6-foot-3 inch, 285-pound defensive lineman tried a number of different sports before finding football going into his freshman year of high school.

"I played soccer for about 11 years," he said. "Playing soccer definitely helped with coming over to football.

"I feel like you don't expect me to be as fast as

I am for my size, especially not to have the agility.

"Growing up, my brother was a great soccer player and a number of years older than me. Going against him and people he was competing with, I was always going up against older guys. That taught me to have the physicality and grit I have."

Football recruiting, or any sort of collegiate athletics recruiting, can be a crazy experience. The amount of coaches calling, texting, DMing a student-athlete can get a little overwhelming. For many players, that includes texts at midnight the first day that coaches can officially directly reach out to players in their junior year.





For some players, the recruitment process is one that starts at a young age with coaches reaching out to third parties, like high school coaches, who can have athletes reach out to the coaches or be the liaison between the student-athletes and college coaches.

For Folorunsho, the recruiting process started a little later than some others,

"The recruiting process was truly a blessing," he said. "It was amazing to go and see all of these schools, learn more about football in general.

"I truly appreciate all of the schools that recruited me, it was a great experience and I learned so much."

However, one thing that was evident was that his stock blew up nationally.

All of the sudden, he was getting offers from national powers like Notre Dame, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio State, Oregon and Texas, just to name a very few.

Folorunsho whittled all of the teams down to a final five of Notre Dame, Georgia, Michigan, Miami and Texas Tech and on May 15, announced where he'll be playing his collegiate ball at the school.

Notre Dame.

"It just truly felt like home," he said. "In the short amount of time, the way we were able to

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# David Folorunsho



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connect and feel comfortable around each other was just amazing.

“Our last trip was to Notre Dame and my family and I just knew. There was no point in waiting.”

**F**olorunsho first realized that he had the opportunity to play at the collegiate level after attending camps last winter at Iowa State and Northwestern.

From there, it’s been a meteoric ride for the Shamrock junior.

He went from an unranked prospect to a player ranked as a four- or five-star, depending on which recruiting service you look at, and a top-80 player nationally.

While his St. Patrick coach, Tom Zbikowski, is a former Notre Dame stalwart, according to Folorunsho, he didn’t push him in any sort of direction when deciding on a collegiate choice.

“He really helped me out in the process, but didn’t show any bias toward any school,” Folorunsho said. “He’s always just looking out for the best for me, regardless of where I chose to go to school.”

Notre Dame, which has a rich tradition of recruiting Chicago-area student-athletes, is excited for the type of player it’s getting, and has also helped prepare Folorunsho for what he needs to do before he gets to campus.

“I feel like I’m a great leader and bring a lot of speed, work well with my hands,” he said. “The coaches at Notre Dame really develop talent well and just being able to talk to them and learn from them.”

The Shamrocks last season qualified for the state playoffs for the first time since 2021, and will be looking to make it to the postseason again in Zbikowski’s second season.

That’s just one of the things that his star player is looking forward to as he enters his final season at the Northwest Side school.

“I want to get All-Conference and All-State again,” he said. “But at the end of the day, we want a state championship. The personal accolades don’t mean anything unless you bring your team along, so I’m just trying to lead us as far as we can go.

“Let’s shock some people.”

