



PIPER USD 203

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Piper High School's Roman Byers Jr. Named Finalist for Prestigious Frank Fontana Award

Kansas City, KS — Piper High School is proud to announce that junior Roman Byers Jr. has been selected as a finalist for the Frank Fontana Award, which honors the top small-class (1A–4A) high school football player in the Kansas City Metro. The Fontana Award is one of the six highly esteemed Simone Awards, widely recognized as the most prestigious honors in Kansas City high school football.

This recognition adds to an already standout season for Byers. Earlier this year, he was voted the KC Metro High School Athlete of the Week following his exceptional performance in the Pirates' Week 1 victory. His junior campaign was marked by remarkable achievements on both sides of the ball.

Byers earned First Team All-Conference and First Team All-State honors as a running back after rushing for 1,263 yards and scoring 26 total touchdowns. As a team captain, he also made significant contributions defensively, recording 50 tackles and helping lead the Pirates to their first playoff victory since 2022.

"Roman exemplifies what it means to be a Piper Pirate, hard-working, humble, and committed to excellence," said Brian Gray, Piper High School Athletic Director. "We are incredibly proud of him and thrilled to see his dedication recognized at such a high level."

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