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## **UMass Dartmouth's Aviles-Santos Named Recipient of New England Football Writers Agganis/Zimman Award**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – UMass Dartmouth graduate student quarterback Dante Aviles-Santos has been named the recipient of the New England Football Writers 2024 Harry Agganis/Harold Zimman Award presented to the most outstanding player in New England regardless of division.

Aviles-Santos, a native of Cumberland, R.I., played at Cumberland High School before enrolling at UMass Dartmouth. In his four years at the helm of the Corsairs he has led the team to a 36-7 (.837) record including 2024's undefeated regular season. He has directed the Corsairs' offense to two Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference titles (2022 & 2024) a shared title (2023), and a second place finish (2021).

Aviles-Santos has received multiple awards during his UMass Dartmouth record-shattering career. The College Division season Gold Helmet recipient from the NEFW as player of the year for his play in 2022, Aviles-Santos is also a two-time weekly Gold Helmet selection. He is a three-time first team All-MASCAC pick and as a first year was a second-team honoree. In 2022, 2023 and 2024, Aviles-Santos has been cited as the MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year. He is a two-time quarterback (2022 & 2024) on the NEFW College Division All-New England Team.

Statistically, Aviles-Santos has played in 43 games, averaging 242.6 yards passing and completing 59.7% of his throws. He has passed for 10,430 yards with 114 touchdown passes. His 42 scoring tosses in 2024 shattered his own UMass Dartmouth record of 28 set in 2022. He has rushed for an additional 14 scores and has even caught a touchdown pass. Aviles-Santos holds UMass Dartmouth season and career records for passing yards, passing touchdowns, passing completions and passing attempts. Five times in 2024 he topped 300 yards passing in a single game including a career-best 371 yards in UMass-Dartmouth's NCAA playoff game against nationally ranked Springfield College.

Aviles-Santos is the first UMass Dartmouth player to be honored by the NEFW with the Agganis/Zimman Award. He is only the second Division III player to ever receive the award with Tim Whelan from Tufts University being the recipient in 1976. The award has been presented since 1966.

Any persons wishing to attend the NEFW Banquet can make reservations on-line at <https://newenglandfootballwriters.com/captains-%26-awards-banquet>. Reservations are \$75.00 each, non-refundable and must be made by 4:00PM, Friday, December 6. Anyone who wishes is invited to attend, and all attendees, including award recipients, are expected to make paid reservations.

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