

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Roye Oliver III of Hamilton High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Oliver as Arizona's best high school football player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, LA), Nick Singleton (2021-22, Governor Mifflin High School, PA) and Keelon Russell (2024-25, Duncanville High School, TX).

The 5-foot-11, 165-pound sophomore wide receiver caught 92 passes for 1,843 yards and 29 touchdowns this past season, leading the Huskies (12-1) to the Open Division state tournament semifinals. Oliver tied the state record for touchdown receptions in a season this fall, and he is already the Conference 6A state record-holder with 40 career touchdown catches. He also returned two punts for scores.

Oliver has volunteered as a flag football referee and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Roye is very instinctive, explosive and has great body control," said Chris McDonald, head coach of Basha High School. "He makes tough catches and plays look easy."

Oliver has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school next fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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 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.

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