

**GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kane Archer of Greenwood High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Archer as Arkansas' 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).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-1, 210-pound senior quarterback had led the Bulldogs (12-0) to the Class 6A state championship game. Archer had passed for 3,212 yards and 30 touchdowns with just four interceptions. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, he also rushed for 1,157 yards and 26 touchdowns and is the first player in Arkansas high school football history to record 100 touchdown passes and 50 rushing touchdowns in a career.

Archer has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth quarterback coach. He has also donated his time as a "Dogpal" at Westwood Elementary School, where he speaks to students about making good decisions and behaving appropriately in school. "Archer's ability to create plays when the initial one breaks down is better than any QB I have game-planned against," said Dom Mirocke, head coach at Northside High School. "In the tight games that Greenwood High School played this year, the outlier as to why they won was Archer and his ability to find a way to win."

Archer has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Utah 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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