TIMBERLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Hudson Lewis of Timberline High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Idaho 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 Lewis as Idaho'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-9, 180-pound senior wideout and defensive back hauled in 62 catches for 1,026 yards and 15 touchdowns this past season, leading the Wolves (10-2) to the program's first state title game appearance. Lewis was unrecoverable at times by 6A defenses, averaging 16.5 yards per reception and recording nine catches of 25 yards or more. On defense, he compiled 20 tackles, eight pass breakups and five interceptions. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a 3-star prospect as rated by 247 Sports, he also rushed 33 times for 142 yards and two scores in addition to returning 11 kicks for 333 yards and a touchdown.

As part of a personal commitment to foster the growth of the sport in East Boise, Lewis has volunteered locally as a youth and junior high football camp coach and has also donated his time with a feeder flag football tournament at area elementary schools. "Lewis makes an impact on both sides, and he's turned around a program that hasn't experienced much success before," said Mike Lycklama of the Idaho Statesman. "The school opened in the fall of 1998 and it had two playoff wins entering the season. It has since won the first league title in program history, set a single-season record for wins and reached its first semifinals and final. In addition to being forced to play QB in the semifinals, he grabbed one interception on defense, forced another with a tipped ball, and had three pass break-ups. No one did what he's done on both sides of the ball."

Lewis has maintained a 3.33 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Oregon next fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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