

**DIVINE CHILD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN FOOTBALL PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Marcello Vitti of Divine Child High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Michigan 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 Vitti as Michigan'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 6-foot, 195-pound senior running back and defensive back was the offensive and defensive spark for Divine Child (13-1) this past season, leading the program to its first state title since 1985. He rushed for 1,374 yards on 191 carries and scored 21 touchdowns on the ground, adding 19 catches for 443 yards and three scores. On defense, he compiled 87 tackles, including eight for a loss, and recorded 10 pass breakups. A Michigan Mr. Football finalist, a three-time First Team All-State selection and a U.S. Army All-American Bowl invitee, he scored in each of the Falcons final three Division 4 postseason games, which the team won by a combined eight points.

Vitti has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and by making blankets for youth impacted by cancer. He has also coached youth football players at multiple camps and clinics. "Vitti is an incredibly talented and valuable two-way player for Divine Child High School," said Alex Pallone, Michigan Scout for Prep Redzone. "He's an elite high school player when it comes to production and impact for his team. I'm probably most impressed with his intangibles."

Vitti has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Iowa 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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