

JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Roman Voss of Jackson County Central High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Minnesota 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 Voss as Minnesota'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-4, 230-pound senior quarterback and free safety led the Huskies to a 13-0 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Voss passed for 1,902 yards and 21 touchdowns while also rushing for 1,893 yards and 30 scores. A finalist for the state's Mr. Football award and a four-time District Offensive Player of the Year, Voss totaled 18 tackles and one interception, returning it for a TD. He rushed for 252 yards and three scores in JCC's 20-15 win over Goodhue High School in the state final.

A member of his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Voss has volunteered locally with Future Farmers of America. "I have no one to compare Roman to," said Jim Wagner, head coach of LeSueur-Henderson High School. "He is a great player and directed his team well. He certainly changes the game."

Voss has maintained a 3.69 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 Minnesota 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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