

## **INDIAN VALLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Grady Kinsey of Indian Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Ohio 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 Kinsey as Ohio'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-8, 205-pound senior running back and linebacker rushed for 2,703 yards and 42 touchdowns this past season, leading the Braves (12-1) to the Division IV state semifinals. A finalist for the Ohio Mr. Football award and the 2024 Division IV Offensive Player of the Year, Kinsey recorded 108 tackles and returned a fumble for a score on defense. He concluded his prep football career with a state-record 133 rushing touchdowns, and his career rushing yards total of 8,607 yards ranks No. 3 all-time in Ohio.

Kinsey has volunteered locally at an eldercare facility and as a youth football coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Grady is truly an amazing kid," said John Slusser, head coach of Ridgewood High School. "In my 21 years as a head coach, he's the best player I've ever coached against. I believe he is the epitome of what a high school football player should be."

Kinsey has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the United States Air Force Academy, where he will play football, beginning 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](https://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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