

RIDGELINE HIGH SCHOOLR STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Krew Jones of Ridgeline High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Utah 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 Jones as Utah'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-4.5, 230-pound junior defensive end recorded 66 tackles this past season, amassing 16 sacks and 30 QB hurries along the way and leading the Riverhawks (14-0) to the Class 4A state title. Ranked as the nation's No. 38 recruit in his class by ESPN, Jones is a two-time First Team All-State selection and earned Second Team All-State honors as a freshman. Prep Redzone ranks him as the No. 1 prospect in Utah.

Jones has volunteered locally by mentoring and supporting children with Down Syndrome and autism. "Krew Jones impacts every play and never takes a snap off," said Andy Pham, Prep Redzone Utah Scout. "He stresses not only opposing lineman, but O-Line coaches and coordinators have to scheme away from him. He sets up his running mate, Coen Richards, in the process. He's not only impactful with his play, but with the headaches he creates for coaches."

Jones has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Oklahoma beginning in the fall of 2027.

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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