

## **RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 Gallagher of Rutland High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Vermont 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 Gallagher as Vermont'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-10, 200-pound senior running back and linebacker rushed for 1,066 yards and 12 touchdowns this past season, leading Rutland to a Division I state semifinal appearance. Gallagher also made 134 tackles, intercepted three passes and scored a defensive touchdown. A 2025 First Team All-State selection at both running back and outside linebacker, he added 441 return yards and a pair of touchdowns on special teams.

A National Honor Society member, Gallagher has volunteered locally as the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Rutland Key Club. He has also served as part of Rutland's student government as well as lead lawyer for Rutland's mock trial club and as a school representative on the Athletic Leadership Council. "Gallagher just does everything for them," said Chad Pacheco, head coach at Brattleboro High School. "He is a huge part of the offense. Every time he touches the ball, there's a chance for an explosive play. He's very comfortable running 'behind his pads,' and punishing oncoming tacklers. On defense, he tackles well at linebacker and he's huge for them on special teams."

Gallagher has maintained a 3.7 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided on his collegiate destination.

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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