

HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Tayveon Wilson of Huntington High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Wilson as West Virginia'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-3, 220-pound senior quarterback passed for 1,577 yards and 17 touchdowns this past season, leading the Highlanders (9-3) to the Class 4A postseason quarterfinals. He also rushed for 899 yards and 10 scores, averaging 8.9 yards per carry. On defense, he recorded 31 tackles, 5 pass breakups, and 3 interceptions, including a pick-6.

Wilson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the YMCA and as a youth sports official. He has also donated his time packing food for the homeless, while his school senior passion project involves supporting youth sports in the City of Huntington. "Tayveon displays everything it takes to be an exceptional player and teammate," said Billy Seals, Huntington High School head coach. "His character and integrity are, without question, as good as anyone I've coached in 26 years. He's an All-State selection in three sports, he might be drafted in baseball next summer and he's the first West Virginia recruit to sign with Clemson since 1967."

Wilson has maintained a 4.64 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at Clemson University next fall, where he will play wide receiver.

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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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