

**WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 7, 2021) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ty Simpson of Westview High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year**. Simpson is the third Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Westview High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Simpson as Tennessee's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Simpson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Christian McCaffrey (2012-13 & 2013-14, Valor Christian High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound senior quarterback had led the Chargers to a 13-1 record and a berth in the Class 2A state championship game at the time of his selection. Simpson completed 193 of 305 passes for 2,827 yards and 41 touchdowns, with just three interceptions, through 14 games. He also rushed for 862 yards and 11 touchdowns on 92 carries. A Mr. Football finalist, Simpson has been selected to play in the 2022 All-American Bowl. He is ranked as the nation's No. 23 recruit in the Class of 2022 by 247Sports.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Simpson has assisted the elderly in his community and has volunteered locally on behalf of Goodwill. "Ty Simpson is the heart and soul of his team, and he's elevated everyone around him to play at a higher level," said Justin Cruse, head coach at Ripley High School. "He is no doubt the best player I've seen all year."

Simpson has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Alabama next fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Simpson joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Prince Kollie (2020-21, David Crockett High School), Elijah Young (2019-20, South-Doyle High School), and Eric Gray (2018-19 & 2017-18, Lausanne Collegiate School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Simpson has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Simpson is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).