

**FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Myles Burkett of Franklin High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year**. Burkett is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Franklin 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 Burkett as Wisconsin'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, Burkett 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-1, 200-pound senior quarterback led the Sabers to a 14-0 record and the Division 1 state championship this past season. Burkett passed for 3,427 yards and 36 touchdowns, completing 71 percent of his attempts. He also rushed for 335 yards and four scores. In a 38-17 win over Sun Prairie High in the state title game, Burkett passed for a Division I state championship game record 276 yards and three scores. He was the 2021 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Offensive Player of the Year.

An intern with the Franklin High TV Company, The Saber Roar, Burkett has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and mentor. "We have played Myles four times in three years and I'm not sad to see him leave," said Joel Paar, head coach of Oak Creek High School. "He is elusive in the pocket with a great feel for pressure. He is extremely accurate, but isn't afraid to try and throw the ball into tight coverage. He is an excellent competitor and has made everyone around him better for three years."

Burkett has maintained a weighted 3.18 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Burkett joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Football Players of the Year Hunter Wohler (2020-21, Muskego High School), Alex Current (2019-20, Muskego High School), Leo Chenal (2018-19, Grantsburg High School), and D.J. Stewart (2017-18, Kimberly High 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, Burkett 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. Burkett 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).

###