

**ARTHUR LOVINGTON ATWOOD HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 6, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kaden Feagin** of **Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year**. Feagin is the first Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond 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 Feagin as Illinois' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Feagin joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-2, 240-pound senior running back, quarterback and defensive back led the Knights (8-3) to the second round of the Class 2A state postseason. Feagin rushed for 1,637 yards and 27 touchdowns, averaging 11.1 yards per carry. He also passed for 695 yards and nine scores, and returned a punt for a TD. On defense, Feagin recorded 82 tackles, two sacks and made two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown.

Feagin has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School football program. "Kaden is a phenomenal athlete that means everything to Arthur's team," said Lucas Watkins, head coach of Cumberland High School. "He is as good of a player that I've coached against in 20 years. He is a generational player at this level."

Feagin has maintained a weighted 3.66 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he'd made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at the University of Illinois this 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.

Feagin joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Hank Beatty (2021-22, Rochester High School), Athan Kaliakmanis (2020-21, Antioch Community High School), A.J. Henning (2019-20, Lincoln-Way East High School), and Jirehl Brock (2018-19, Quincy Senior High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade

###