

**ANDREAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Drayk Bowen** of **Andrean High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year**. Bowen is the first Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Andrean 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 Bowen as Indiana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Bowen 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 230-pound senior linebacker and running back rushed for 1,784 yards and 26 touchdowns this past season, leading the Fighting 59ers (10-4) to the Class 2A state championship game. Bowen also caught 10 passes for 228 yards and three scores. Ranked as the nation's No. 45 recruit in the Class of 2023 by Rivals.com, he recorded 144 tackles on defense with 19 tackles for a loss, five sacks, four forced fumbles and two interceptions.

Bowen has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Drayk is a phenomenal football talent," said Pete Koulianos, head coach of Highland High School. "He is so big, fast and physical that you have to game plan for him on both sides of the ball. He carries the ball 20-plus times a game and makes impact plays on defense and special teams."

Bowen has maintained a weighted 4.16 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Bowen inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for him to enroll at the University of Notre Dame, where he will play football and baseball. He graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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.

Two-time winner Bowen joins recent Gatorade Indiana Football Players of the Year Carson Steele (2020-21, Center Grove High School), Charlie Spegal (2019-20, New Palestine High School), and David Bell (2018-19, Warren Central 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