

**LEAVITT AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Noah Carpenter** of **Leavitt Area High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year**. Carpenter is the second Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Leavitt Area 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 Carpenter as Maine'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, Carpenter 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, 180-pound junior quarterback and defensive back amassed 3,180 total yards and 39 touchdowns for the Hornets (12-0) en route to a Class C state championship. Carpenter was a dual-threat on offense, passing for 2,006 yards and 27 touchdowns and rushing for 1,174 yards and 22 scores. He was an effective defensive back, tallying 77 tackles and intercepting a pair of passes.

Carpenter has volunteered locally with Leavitt's Unified Sports club chapter, a program that empowers individuals with and without intellectual disabilities to engage through the power of sports. He has also donated his time with the Hornet Pride camp and on the school's student council. "He's a terrific runner with size, power and breakaway speed," said Cheverus High School coach Mike Vance. "He's extremely accurate and makes all the throws, powers the ball downfield on a rope and [puts touch on it] whenever necessary."

Carpenter maintains a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year 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.

Carpenter joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Eli Soehren (2021-22, Oxford Hills High School), Wyatt Hathaway (2020-21, Leavitt Area High School), Zach Maturo (2019-20, Bonny Eagle High School), and Anthony Bracamonte (2018-19, Thornton Academy), 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

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