

**LAKEVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Carson Hansen** of **Lakeville South High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year**. Hansen is the first Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeville South 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 Hansen as Minnesota’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, Hansen 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-1, 205-pound senior running back rushed for 1,727 yards and 21 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cougars (9-3) to the Class 6A state semifinals. Hansen also caught 11 passes for 181 yards and four scores. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep football career with 4,532 yards and 57 touchdowns on the ground.

A member of Young Life, Hansen has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children. He has also donated his time organizing and running a youth football camp. “Carson has been a nightmare for teams the past three years,” said Matt Gegenheimer, head coach of Prior Lake High School. “He is one of the better players I have ever coached against. He has it all—vision, speed, power and he can out-run you or run you over.”

Hansen has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he’d made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at Iowa State University 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.

Two-time winner Hansen joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Football Players of the Year Trey Feeney (2020-21, Moorhead High School), Jalen Suggs (2019-20, Minnehaha Academy), and Jason Williamson (2018-19, Owatonna 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.

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