

**SHANLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 6, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Michael Rostberg** of **Shanley High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade North Dakota Football Player of the Year**. Rostberg is the second Gatorade North Dakota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Shanley 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 Rostberg as North Dakota'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, Rostberg 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-4, 205-pound senior quarterback led the Deacons (10-2) to a Class AA state championship. Rostberg, a team captain, completed 239-of-389 passes for 2,969 yards and 34 touchdowns, and added 10 rushing touchdowns on the ground. He is believed to be North Dakota's all-time and single-season passing leader.

Rostberg has volunteered locally as a church parishioner, student ambassador and on behalf of youth camps. "His big arm and physical running style were major contributors to a Shanley offense that played at an elite level for a majority of the season," said Century High School head coach Ron Wingenbach. "He led the Deacons throughout their playoff run with a level of offensive production and efficiency that was simply amazing."

Rostberg has maintained a weighted 3.88 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 St. Thomas (Minn.) 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.

Rostberg joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Football Players of the Year Lucas Schweigert (2021-22, Century High School), Andrew Leingang (2020-21, Century High School), Oscar Benson (2019-20, Hillsboro-Central Valley High School), and Will Madler (2018-19, Bismarck 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](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).

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