

**WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Sam Leavitt** of **West Linn High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year**. Leavitt is the second Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn 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 Leavitt as Oregon’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, Leavitt joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Christian McCaffrey (, Valor Christian High School, Colo.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound senior quarterback led the Lions to a 12-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Leavitt passed for 3,065 yards and 36 touchdowns, connecting on 169-of-244 passes (69 percent). He also rushed for 693 yards and eight scores, including 171 yards and a TD on the ground in West Linn High School’s 23-14 win over Sheldon High School in the state final. He was the 2022 MaxPreps.com State Player of the Year and concluded his prep football career with 82 touchdown passes.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Leavitt organized a clothing and essential drive for local immigrants and delivered it to a refugee organization in Portland. He has also volunteered as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. “Sam was electric on the field as a thrower and a runner,” said Jon Eagle, head coach of West Linn High School. “He for sure is the straw that stirs the drink for what we do offensively. He has taken quick control of our offense and has led us with remarkable skill.”

Leavitt has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at Michigan 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.

Leavitt joins recent Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Jack Layne (2021-22, Lake Oswego High School), Cole Prusia (2020-21, Tualatin High School), Casey Filkins (2019-20, Lake Oswego High School), and Nathan Overholt (2018-19, Wilsonville 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.