

**WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 3, 2023) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Aaron Hampton** of **West Anchorage High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year**. Hampton is the sixth Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from West Anchorage High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Hampton as Alaska’s best high school football player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.), Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, La.) and Jackson Arnold (2022-23, John H. Guyer High School, Texas).

The 6-foot-2, 225-pound senior wide receiver and linebacker caught 40 passes for 612 yards and six touchdowns this past season, leading the Eagles (10-2) to Alaska’s Division I state championship. Hampton also recorded 44 solo tackles on defense, including eight for loss, and intercepted three passes, returning two for scores. He moved to running back in West Anchorage’s 34-21 win over South Anchorage in the state final, rushing for 140 yards and a touchdown to lead them to victory.

A three-sport athlete, Hampton has volunteered locally as a server at an Anchorage soup kitchen and on behalf of his local church. “He plays really good defense and offense,” said John Lewis, head coach of South Anchorage High School. “When everything was on the line, he put them back in the championship game against us. He gave every ounce of effort. You’re looking at a kid who is the difference on both sides of the ball and enhanced his team.”

Hampton has maintained a weighted 3.4 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football at the University of California next fall as a preferred walk-on.

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.

Hampton joins recent Gatorade Alaska Football Players of the Year Jack Nash (2022-23, Colony High School), Kyler Johnson (2021-22, East Anchorage High School), Jordan Holland (2020-21, East Anchorage High School), and Jace Henry (2019-20, Lathrop High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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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