

**CARLSBAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Julian Sayin** of **Carlsbad High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade California Football Player of the Year**. Sayin is the first Gatorade California Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Carlsbad 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 Sayin as California's best high school football player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Sayin joins 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, 200-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,369 yards and 24 touchdowns this past season, leading the Lancers (10-1) to the San Diego Section Open Division tournament semifinals. Ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.com, Sayin was the MVP of the Elite 11 Finals quarterback competition last summer and is a three-time Avocado League Offensive MVP.

Sayin has volunteered locally with OAK (Oncology and Kids), a foundation that supports children with cancer. "Julian is special for sure," said Sean Sovacool, head coach of La Costa Canyon High School. "He throws with extreme accuracy and power and extends plays better than anyone out there. He is the real deal, no doubt about it."

Sayin has maintained a weighted 4.08 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Sayin inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for him to enroll at the University of Alabama. He graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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.

Sayin joins recent Gatorade California Football Players of the Year Malachi Nelson (2022-23 & 2020-21, Los Alamitos High School), Tetairoa McMillan (2021-22, Servite High School), and Bryce Young (2019-20, Mater Dei 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 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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