

**ALTHOFF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Dierre Hill** of **Althoff Catholic High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year**. Hill is the first Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Althoff Catholic 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 Hill as Illinois’ 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, 183-pound junior running back and defensive back rushed for 1,788 yards and 23 touchdowns this past season, leading the Crusaders (10-2) to the Class 1A state postseason quarterfinals. Ranked as the nation’s No. 51 recruit in the Class of 2025 by Rivals.com, Hill averaged 13.6 yards per carry. He also returned two kickoffs for TDs, caught a touchdown pass and threw for a score. Defensively, he recorded 32 tackles and three interceptions, returning two for touchdowns.

Hill has volunteered locally as a youth football and basketball camp counselor, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. “Dierre’s speed and vision make him special,” said Brad Goewey, head coach of Centralia High School. “Their success goes directly through him—he is what makes them so dangerous for opposing defenses.”

Hill has maintained a weighted 3.23 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Hill joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Kaden Feagin (2022-23, Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School), Hank Beatty (2021-22, Rochester High School), Athan Kaliakmanis (2020-21, Antioch Community High School), and A.J. Henning (2019-20, Lincoln-Way East 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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