

**EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Josh Ringer** of **East Central High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year**. Ringer is the first Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from East Central 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 Ringer as Indiana'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, 200-pound senior running back led the Trojans to a 15-0 record and a second straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Ringer rushed for 2,880 yards and 55 touchdowns, averaging 10.3 yards per carry. He also caught 13 passes for 278 yards and five TDs. In six postseason games, Ringer scored 24 touchdowns, including three in East Central's 42-14, title-game win over NorthWood High. Ringer concluded his prep football career with 6,640 rushing yards and 110 touchdowns.

The public address announcer for the East Central junior varsity and freshman teams, Ringer has volunteered locally as a youth football coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his school's National Honor Society. "What truly makes Josh exceptional is his ability to remain a formidable force even after contact," said Ryan Knigga, head coach of Lawrenceburg High School. "His balance, vision and speed are unmatched, making him a dynamic and versatile player. His determination to not go down easily sets him apart."

Ringer has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play football on scholarship at Miami University (Ohio) 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.

Ringer joins recent Gatorade Indiana Football Players of the Year Drayk Bowen (2022-23 & 2021-22, Andean High School), Carson Steele (2020-21, Center Grove High School), and Charlie Spegal (2019-20, New Palestine 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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