

**CHANHASSEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 3, 2023) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Maxwell Woods** of **Chanhassen High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year**. Woods is the first Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Chanhassen 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 Woods as Minnesota'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 5-foot-10, 185-pound senior running back and defensive back led the Storm to a 13-0 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Woods rushed for 1,844 yards and 20 touchdowns, averaging 8.6 yards per carry, including 215 yards and two scores in Chanhassen's 34-31, overtime win over St. Thomas Academy in the title game. He also caught 15 passes for 258 yards and five scores in addition to returning two kickoffs for touchdowns. Defensively, Woods recorded 33 tackles and forced two fumbles.

Woods has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and as a Vacation Bible School teacher. He has also donated his time as a youth football and basketball coach. "We've competed against Max the last three years and he's been so impactful," said Corey Shea, head coach of Waconia High. "Offense, defense and special teams, he was dominant."

Woods has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at South Dakota 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.

Woods joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Football Players of the Year Carson Hansen (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lakeville South High School), Trey Feeney (2020-21, Moorhead High School), and Jalen Suggs (2019-20, Minnehaha Academy), 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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