

**WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Anthony Rezac** of **Westside High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year**. Rezac is the second Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Westside 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 Rezac as Nebraska’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-3, 195-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,316 yards and 30 touchdowns this past season, completing 73.4 percent of his throws to lead the Warriors (13-0) to the Class A state title. On the ground, Rezac rushed for 905 yards and 15 scores, averaging 9.3 yards per carry. Rated as Nebraska’s No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2024 by Prep RedZone, he completed 20-of-24 passes for 251 yards and a touchdown while adding two more touchdown runs in the state final. A three-time state champion, he accounted for 8,055 career yards and 104 touchdowns, finishing with a 35-2 career record under center.

Rezac has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics in association with WEST-SIDE UNIFIED. A member of the Heartland Family Service Student League, he’s also a Youth Frontiers Respect Leader, a role in which he helps a nonprofit provide experiences that inspire character, civility and community. “Nobody in the state got things done as effectively with his arm and his legs as Rezac,” said Chris Basnett of the Lincoln Journal Star. “There are other football players with more prominent recruiting profiles than his, but none have the unique combination of skillset, athletic ability and intangibles. You don’t go 35-2 as a starter in Nebraska’s largest class without being the best at knowing how to win games, in addition to having tremendous athletic ability. He’s a special athlete, and someone who’s more than qualified for this honor.”

Rezac has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Rezac joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Football Players of the Year Zane Flores (2022-23, Gretna High School), Noah Walters (2021-22, Lincoln East High School), Cole Payton (2020-21, Westside High School), and Jevyon Ducker (2019-20, Bellevue West 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.

###