

**HERITAGE HALL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 3, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Andy Bass** of **Heritage Hall** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year**. Bass is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Heritage Hall.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Bass as Oklahoma’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, 205-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,144 yards and 34 touchdowns this past season, leading the Chargers (14-1) to the Class 3A state title game. Bass threw only three interceptions, completed 66.3 percent of his passes and averaged 13.1 yards per attempt. He also rushed for 1,480 yards at 10.7 yards per carry, finding the end zone 31 times. Ranked as the state’s No. 11 recruit by 247Sports, he helped lead Heritage Hall to the state championship in 2022 and clocked the fastest all-class time in the 100-meter dash (10.5 seconds) to break the tape at the 2023 outdoor track state championships.

Bass has volunteered locally on behalf of Cleats 4 Kids as a member of its executive board and with Pivot, which provides programs that focus on youth services. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society, he’s also donated his time to the YWCA, a wheelchair football club and by coaching a community flag football team. “Andy’s production on the field this season was eye-opening,” said Nick Sardis of The Oklahoman. “Both through the air and with his legs, he dominated opposing teams and showed he made a big leap from his junior season. He’s also one of the most respectful athletes I’ve encountered. He’s been an outstanding leader for the Chargers, and he was the driving force behind that team’s success last fall.”

Bass has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football as a preferred walk-on at the University of Oklahoma 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.

Bass joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Emmanuel Crawford (2022-23, Grove High School), Braylin Presley (2021-22, Bixby High School), Kendal Daniels (2020-21, Beggs High School), and Brennan Presley (2019-20, Bixby 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

###