

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Cru Newman** of **Central Catholic High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year**. Newman is the first Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Central 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 Newman as Oregon'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, 180-pound senior quarterback led the Rams to a 13-0 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Newman passed for 2,671 yards and 31 touchdowns, adding 714 yards and 15 scores on the ground. He amassed 442 yards of offense and three touchdowns in Central Catholic High School's 49-21 win over Tualatin High School in the state final. A three-time Conference Player of the Year, he also led the Rams to the 2021 state title.

A member of the Rams Football Leadership Council, Newman has volunteered locally with the Big Yard Foundation, which benefits those who live in disadvantaged communities. "Cru is one of the best high school football players I have coached against," said Aaron Hazel, head coach of Nelson High School. "He is unbelievable with the ball in his hands and you have to center your defense around him. He is a very potent weapon."

Newman has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Newman joins recent Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Sam Leavitt (2022-23, West Linn High School), Jack Layne (2021-22, Lake Oswego High School), Cole Prusia (2020-21, Tualatin High School), and Casey Filkins (2019-20, Lake Oswego 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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