

**HAMPTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Zion Dobson** of **Hampton County High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year**. Dobson is the first Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hampton County 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 Dobson as South Carolina’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, 174-pound senior running back rushed for 2,629 yards and 40 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hurricanes (12-2) to the Class AA state semifinals in the school’s first year of existence. A finalist for the state’s Mr. Football award and a 2022 Class AA First Team All-State selection at Wade Hampton High, Dobson scored 15 touchdowns in four postseason games for Hampton County. He concluded his prep football career with 4,189 yards rushing and 57 touchdowns.

A member of the Clemson University Emerging Scholars program, Dobson has volunteered locally with elementary school literacy programs and as a teacher’s aide. He has also donated his time as a youth football coach. “Zion Dobson is a heck of a ballplayer,” said Brian Smith, head coach of Barnwell High. “He’s the best we have seen this year. He’s a big back, tough, physical and fast.”

Dobson has maintained a weighted 4.31 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.

Dobson joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Football Players of the Year Jarvis Green (2022-23, Dutch Fork High School), Trent Pearman (2021-22 & 2020-21, D.W. Daniel High School), and Mikele Colasurdo (2019-20, Chapman 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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