

**BURR & BURTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Jack McCoy** of **Burr & Burton Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year**. McCoy is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Burr & Burton Academy.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes McCoy as Vermont’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 quarterback and defensive back passed for 2,055 yards this past season, completing 66.8 percent of his throws for 10.3 yards per attempt and 28 touchdowns against just two interceptions, leading the Bulldogs (10-1) to a Division I state championship. McCoy also rushed for 1,243 yards and 19 touchdowns in addition to recording 74 tackles, including five for loss, on defense. He accounted for all five touchdowns in Burr and Burton Academy’s 35-28 win over Hartford High School in the state final.

McCoy has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and is a member of Burr and Burton’s Student Athlete Leadership Team. He is also a three-year Unified Sports partner, serving children with physical and intellectual challenges. “He’s a weapon with both his arm and his feet,” said Chad Pacheco, Brattleboro High School head coach. “It’s tough for us to game plan against him because we’d try to make him throw and he’d pick us apart in coverage. If we tried to force him to run, he found little gaps. He’s deadly with the ball.”

McCoy has maintained an unweighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. He is 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.

McCoy joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Jackson Sumner (2022-23, Champlain Valley Union High School), Slade Postemski (2021-22, Rutland High School), Gavin Johnson (2020-21, Mount Anthony Union High School), and Joey McCoy (2019-20, Burr & Burton 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](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).

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