

**MARTINSBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Murphy Clement** of **Martinsburg High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year**. Clement is the sixth Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Martinsburg 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 Clement as West Virginia’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, 195-pound senior quarterback passed for 1,673 yards and 19 touchdowns this past season, adding 1,128 yards rushing and 20 scores in leading the Bulldogs (13-0) to their 10th Class AAA state title since 2010. Clement averaged 9.3 yards per passing attempt and 6.7 yards per carry. On defense, he recorded 34 tackles (14 solo), including seven for a loss, along with two interceptions, four passes defended, a fumble recovery and a forced fumble. Rated as the state’s No. 9 recruit by Prep RedZone, he was at his best when it counted most, amassing 578 yards of total offense and seven touchdowns in the final two games of his career.

A member of the Superintendent’s Advisory Council for Berkeley County Schools, Clement has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the leadership class at his school. Also a baseball standout, he has donated his time as a guest reader to students at Gerrardstown Elementary School and as an instructor at the Martinsburg Football Camp. “Murphy Clement was the best player on the best team in the state this season,” said Doug Huff of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association. “He led a balanced attack on the way to the state’s only unbeaten record in top two classes, and he was frequently pulled in runaway games in the second half. He’s deserving of the highest honors.”

Clement has maintained a 3.96 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.

Clement joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Football Players of the Year Judah Price (2022-23, Independence High School), Hudson Clement (2021-22, Martinsburg High School), Blake Hartman (2020-21, Musselman High School), and JJ Roberts (2019-20, Cabell Midland 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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