CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 6, 2024) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Noah Ehrlich** of **Crown Point High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year**. Ehrlich is the second Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Crown Point High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Ehrlich as Indiana's best high school football player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fl.), Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, La.) and DJ Lagway (2023-24, Willis High School, Texas).

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,415 yards and 29 touchdowns this past season, leading the Bulldogs (12-1) to the Class 6A state semifinals. Ehrlich produced those numbers without playing in the second half of any regular-season games. A two-time Duneland Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player, he concluded his prep football career with 94 passing touchdowns.

Ehrlich has volunteered locally as a youth football coach, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Noah appears to be a phenomenal team leader," said Brad Seiss, head coach of Merrillville High School. "You always see him encouraging others, helping players up and doing all the little intangible things you expect from an elite-level quarterback. He does a really good job of directing the offense."

Ehrlich has maintained a weighted 3.97 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at Miami (Ohio) University next fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Ehrlich joins recent Gatorade Indiana Football Players of the Year Josh Ringer (2023-24, East Central High School), Drayk Bowen (2022-23 & 2021-22, Andrean High School) and Carson Steele (2020-21, Center Grove 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.