

**BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (December 6, 2024) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Bryce Underwood** of **Belleville High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Michigan Football Player of the Year**. Underwood is the first Gatorade Michigan Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Belleville 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 Underwood as Michigan’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-3 1/2, 210-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,321 yards and 30 touchdowns this past season, completing 71.8 percent of his attempts and throwing just five interceptions in leading the Tigers (10-2) to the Division 1 semifinals. Rated as the nation’s No. 1 prospect in his class by 247Sports, ESPN and On3, Underwood also rushed for 582 yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 15.3 yards per carry. He will graduate as the leading touchdown passer in state history.

Underwood has volunteered locally at Detroit’s Capuchin Soup Kitchen during the holiday season and has also donated his time with his team washing cars and serving food at Culver’s Restaurant. He has also served as a youth football instructor and coach. “There might not have been a quarterback in the country with more field command than Bryce Underwood this fall,” said Andrew Ivins, 247Sports Director of Scouting. “He’s got everything you want with his high-powered arm and savvy decision-making, but what really stood out as the season progressed was his ability to move the chains with his legs and supplement the run game. That’s the type of signal-caller that no one wants to face.”

Underwood has maintained a 3.2 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Michigan 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.

Two-time winner Underwood joins recent Gatorade Michigan Football Players of the Year Dante Moore (2022-23, Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School), Josh Burnham (2021-22, Traverse City Central High School) and Donovan Edwards (2020-21, West Bloomfield 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).