

**ALEXANDRIA AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Chase Thompson** of **Alexandria Area High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year**. Thompson is the first Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Alexandria Area 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 Thompson as Minnesota'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-8, 215-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,592 yards and 38 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cardinals (10-3) to the Class 5A state championship game. A finalist for the state’s Mr. Football award, Thompson also rushed for 130 yards and five scores. He passed for multiple touchdowns in 12 of 13 games, including four games with at least four TD tosses.

An active member of Alexandria’s Unified Physical Education program, Thompson has volunteered locally as a youth football and basketball camp counselor. “Chase is a nightmare to prepare for because he is so calm and smooth under pressure,” said Bryan Stoffel, head coach of Bemidji High School. “As an opponent you try to get him rattled with different coverages [and] pressures, but he can constantly find the weakness in those adjustments.”

Thompson has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Clemson 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.

Thompson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Football Players of the Year Maxwell Woods (2023-24, Chanhassen High School), Carson Hansen (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lakeville South High School) and Trey Feeney (2020-21, Moorhead 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 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.

###