

## **HARTFIELD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Bralan Womack** of **Hartfield Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year**. Womack is the first Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hartfield Academy.

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 Womack as Mississippi'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, 190-pound junior safety and wide receiver led the Hawks to a 12-2 record and a second-straight Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Class 6A tournament championship this past season. Womack intercepted eight passes, returning four for touchdowns, while also contributing 39 tackles. Offensively, Womack caught 54 passes for 1,045 yards and 13 scores and returned both a kickoff and punt for touchdowns. He is ranked as the nation's No. 22 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN.com.

Womack has volunteered locally with Season of Service Ministries, which decorates doors at area nursing homes. He has also donated his time feeding the homeless and as part of community beautification projects. "Bralan is an exceptional athlete," said Michael Brown, former head coach of Presbyterian Christian High School. "At any skill position, he can not only contribute but excel on an elite level. Bralan is a great player, no doubt."

Womack has maintained a 3.21 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Womack joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Football Players of the Year Kahnen Daniels (2023-24, West Point High School), Isaac Smith (2022-23, Itawamba Agricultural High School), D.J. Smith, Jr. (2021-22, Greenville Christian School) and Ty Keyes (2020-21, Taylorsville 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://www.x.com/Gatorade).