CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Scott Hershberger** of **Campbell High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Hampshire Football Player of the Year**. Hershberger is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Campbell 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 Hershberger as New Hampshire'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, 195-pound senior running back and safety rushed for 2,076 yards and 26 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cougars (11-0) to a Division III state championship. Hershberger also made 58 tackles, including three for loss, forced three fumbles, recorded two interceptions and added another touchdown on defense. New Hampshire's Joe Yukica Player of the Year, he concluded his prep career as the leading rusher in state history with 6,212 yards.

A National Honor Society member, Hershberger has volunteered locally as a youth lacrosse coach. He has also served on the NHIAA student leadership committee, as a school peer mentor and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "As an opposing coach for the last three years, I've seen Hershberger's outstanding work ethic and leadership up close," said Ron Ross, head coach of Epping/New Market High School. "Even though Scott rarely plays a full 48-minute contest week-to-week, he still broke the state rushing record. He's also a two-time Player of the Year in our conference and primed to win it for a third straight year. He has earned the respect of every coach in this state from Division I to Division IV."

Hershberger has maintained a 4.04 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 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.

Hershberger joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Football Players of the Year Kevin Sheridan (2023-24, Bedford High School), Exodus Ayers (2022-23, Proctor Academy), Jackson Paradis (2021-22, Tilton School) and Curtis Harris-Lopez (2020-21, Nashua North 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>.