

BRANDON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Hudson Parliament** of **Brandon Valley High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year**. Parliament is the fifth Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Brandon Valley 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 Parliament as South Dakota'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-4, 305-pound junior two-way lineman recorded 97 pancake blocks and did not surrender a sack this past season, leading the Lynx (11-1) to the Class AAA state title game. Parliament was the anchor of a unit that helped Brandon Valley average 28.5 points per game, including 9.4 yards per rushing attempt. He also logged 22 tackles and two sacks on defense. Ranked as the state's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports, he is a two-time All-State selection.

Also a member of his school's power lifting and trap shooting teams, Parliament has volunteered locally as a youth football and wrestling instructor and on behalf of a backpack food program for the underserved. He has also donated his time at a homeless shelter, in association with his church youth group and by filling sandbags during recent floods. "Hudson is a dominant run-blocker," said Vince Benedetto, head coach of Sioux Falls Jefferson High School. "Defending Brandon Valley, you know where the ball is going to go and it's going to go behind Number 64. Stopping it is nearly impossible because of the player that he is. I know Hudson off of the field as well and he's incredibly humble, hardworking and, overall, a very fine young man."

Parliament has maintained a 3.67 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.

Parliament joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Football Players of the Year Jack Smith (2023-24, Lincoln High School), Lincoln Kienholz (2022-23, T.F Riggs High School), Jacob Knuth (2021-22, Harrisburg High School) and Tate Johnson (2020-21, Brandon Valley 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.