

## **VERONA AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Tre Poteat** of **Verona Area High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year**. Poteat is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Verona 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 Poteat as Wisconsin’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-1, 185-pound senior defensive back and wide receiver recorded 43 tackles and six interceptions this past season, returning two for touchdowns and leading the Wildcats (10-1) to the second round of the Division 1 state tournament. The Jim Leonhard Award winner as the state’s top senior defensive back, Poteat also forced five fumbles and blocked a kick. Offensively, the Wisconsin State Journal Player of the Year made 43 receptions for 552 yards and seven TDs in addition to passing for two scores and rushing for two more. A special teams ace, he returned four punts as well as a kickoff for TDs.

A member of the Verona Area High School Black Student Union, Poteat has volunteered locally as a youth football and basketball coach. “Tre is the real deal,” said Tim Simon, head coach of Middleton High School. “There are many things that stand out with him and certainly one of the things is that he plays everywhere. Playing multiple positions might be common for smaller schools, but it’s not very common for large schools. He’s legit.”

Poteat has maintained a 3.16 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 Tennessee 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.

Poteat joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Football Players of the Year Colton Brunell (2023-24, Columbus High School), Wynn Stang (2022-23, Mukwonago High School), Myles Burkett (2021-22, Franklin High School) and Hunter Wohler (2020-21, Muskego 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).