

# CHICAGO BEARS 2023 COACH OF THE WEEK & HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR RECOGNITION - WEEK 3

Sept. 14 - The Chicago Bears have officially named Head Coach Colton Nero of Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Palos Hills, Ill., as the Chicago Bears High School Coach of the Week and quarterback/safety Lebarion Gilmore also from Amos Alonzo Stagg High School as the Chicago Bears High School All-Star for Week 3. These recognitions are part of the Coach of the Week and High School All-Stars award programs, which are brought to you by Athletico Physical Therapy. In support of these initiatives, the Bears will make a \$2,000 donation to the Amos Alonzo Stagg football program and direct a \$500 donation to the youth football program at Lindblom Park, as chosen by Gilmore. Gilmore played tackle football for Lindblom Park during his youth, a youth program that is part of the Junior Bear football program and funded by Bears Care.



## **Colton Nero**

On Sept. 8, Head Coach Colton Nero guided his team, the Amos Alonzo Stagg Chargers (3-0), to a 24-0 home conference victory against the Belleville West Maroons (1-2) on Friday night. This marks the first time since 2005 that Amos Alonzo Stagg High School has achieved a 3-0 start to the football season. Coach Nero took over the Stagg program in 2020 amidst the challenges of COVID, working to improve various aspects including coaching, equipment and discipline. Over the past four years, Nero and his staff have made significant improvements, resulting in a student-athlete receiving a full-ride scholarship offer from the University of Illinois, the first since the early 2000s. Additionally, eleven former Stagg players are currently playing football in college, demonstrating Nero's dedication to their development and program growth. In addition to his role as head coach, Nero also serves as a Special Education teacher at the school. The Stagg Chargers are scheduled to play against the Andrew Thunderbolts (1-1) on Friday night, Sept. 15.



## **Lebarion Gilmore**

On Sept. 8, senior quarterback and safety, Lebarion Gilmore played a significant role in the Stagg Chargers' victory against the Maroons. During Friday night's game, Gilmore completed four of eight passes for 132 yards, resulting in two touchdowns. Over the course of his first three games, he achieved 15 completions out of 30 attempts for a total of 336 yards, accompanied by seven passing touchdowns. Additionally, he rushed for 146 yards from 16 carries, adding five touchdowns to his name. On the defensive side, playing as a safety, Gilmore contributed eight solo tackles, six assisted tackles and one interception. He demonstrated exceptional efficiency for his team, playing in over 95% of the snaps on both offense and defense during the first three games of the season. Beyond the field, Lebarion also devotes his time to community service at elementary schools, middle schools and youth football events, helping promote the Stagg football program and aiding in the development of young athletes. Gilmore aims to maintain his team's undefeated record as they take on the Andrew Thunderbolts on Friday night.

## **About "Coach of the Week" & "High School All-Star"**

The Chicago Bears Coach of the Week program was launched in 1996 and High School All-Star program in 2011. The Coach of the Week program honors outstanding Illinois high school coaches who develop players' football skills and knowledge, character, leadership, discipline and teamwork abilities. The nomination criteria for the High School All-Star program includes on-field performance, community involvement and good sportsmanship. Exceptional high school coaches and players who go beyond expectations are nominated by a panel of local high school sports journalists. The winning candidates are chosen each week from Aug. 25th to Oct. 21st. Since the program's inception, the Bears have donated more than \$369,000 to Illinois high schools in support of their football programs. For more information, please visit [ChicagoBears.com/Community/High-School-Football](https://ChicagoBears.com/Community/High-School-Football).

