

CHICAGO BEARS ANNOUNCE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' FLAG FOOTBALL COACH AND PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARD WINNERS - WEEK 2

The Chicago Bears have officially named Sarah Gutierrez, head coach of Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, as the Chicago Bears Girls' Flag Football Coach of the Week and running back Lily Sarli of Taft High School in Chicago as the Chicago Bears Girls' Flag Player of the Week for Week 2.

These awards recognize excellence in leadership and team commitment, highlighting efforts to support young female athletes and expand girls' flag football throughout Illinois. As part of this program, the Chicago Bears will make a \$2,000 donation to the Stevenson High School football program and a \$500 donation to the youth football program if Sarli's choice.

Sarah Gutierrez

This past Saturday, Sept. 7, Head Coach Sarah Gutierrez led the Stevenson Patriots to a doubleheader victory against Lyons High School (14-12) from La Grange and Dundee-Crown High School (8-6) from Carpentersville. Her defensive play philosophy played a key role in motivating her team to limit both opponents to under two touchdowns, keeping the score low. Since establishing the girls' flag football program at Stevenson in 2023, Gutierrez has been instrumental in its growth and success. Her leadership and dedication have transformed the team into a competitive and cohesive unit. In their inaugural season last year, Coach Gutierrez led the Patriots to a league championship and a spot in the state championships. This year, the program has expanded to include multiple teams, reflecting the positive environment she has cultivated. The Patriots remain undefeated in the conference league and Coach Gutierrez will look to extend their win streak this Saturday, Sept. 14, in a doubleheader against Zion-Benton High School from Zion and Libertyville High School from Libertyville.



Lily Sarli

This past week, junior running back Lily Sarli led the Taft Lady War Eagles to a perfect five-win streak, maintaining their undefeated season. On Sept. 3, Sarli ran for two touchdowns and 93 yards in the Lady War Eagles' 34-0 victory over Von Steuben High School from Chicago. The next day, she rushed for 162 yards and a touchdown, contributing to a 28-6 win against Stevenson High School from Lincolnshire. On Sept. 5, the Lady War Eagles hosted a doubleheader against St. Laurence High School from Burbank and Waukegan High School from Waukegan. Sarli was a standout, amassing 169 rushing yards and two touchdowns in a 54-12 win over St. Laurence, followed by 70 yards on just three carries and another touchdown in a 52-6 victory over Waukegan. Demonstrating her versatility, Sarli also had three receptions for 94 yards and two receiving touchdowns in the same game. In the final game of the week on Sept. 7, the Lady War Eagles defeated rival Whitney Young High School from Chicago 16-6, with Sarli rushing for 153 yards and one touchdown. Over the week, Sarli totaled 647 rushing yards, seven rushing touchdowns and two receiving touchdowns. She now leads the state in rushing yards, total points and touchdowns, and is the national leader with 749 rushing yards through six games. The Lady War Eagles will look to continue their perfect season this Saturday, Sept. 14, in a doubleheader against Ogden International High School and Amundsen High School, both from Chicago.



About High School Girls' Flag Football Coach of the Week & Player of the Week

The Chicago Bears launched the High School Girls' Flag Football Coach of the Week and Player of the Week programs in 2024 to recognize outstanding high school coaches and players in the rapidly growing sport of girls' flag football. The Coach of the Week award honors coaches who excel in developing players' skills, leadership, teamwork and advocating the growth of the sport. The Player of the Week program highlights players for their on-field game-changer performance, sportsmanship and community involvement. Winners are selected weekly throughout the IHSA flag football season by a panel of local sports journalists. For more information, please visit ChicagoBears.com/Community/High-School-Football.

