

CHICAGO BEARS ANNOUNCE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH OF THE WEEK AND ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS - WEEK 3

The Chicago Bears have officially named Mark Farrell, head coach of Fenton High School in Bensenville, as the Chicago Bears High School Coach of the Week and Kaedon Phillips, running back from Sterling High School in Sterling, as the Chicago Bears High School All-Star for Week 3.

The Coach of the Week and High School All-Star awards, brought to you by Athletico Physical Therapy, recognize outstanding performances and leadership among high school coaches and players in Illinois. As part of the award programs, the Chicago Bears will make a \$2,000 donation to the Fenton football program and a \$500 donation to the youth football program of Phillips' choice.

Mark Farrell

This past Friday night, Sept. 13, Head Coach Mark Farrell led the Fenton Bison to a 54-36 victory in an away conference matchup against the Elmwood Park Tigers. The win keeps the Bison undefeated with a perfect 3-0 start to the season, their best since 2014. Farrell returned to coach the Bison this year after 13 years away, with a mission to revive the program following a challenging, winless season last year. In his first stint as head coach from 2006 to 2010, Farrell led the Bison to two playoff appearances, a significant achievement for the program at the time. His previous success and deep connection to the team have made his return even more impactful. Now back at the helm, Farrell is building on his past accomplishments, leading the Bison to an impressive average of 44 points per game and instilling a winning mentality in his players. Beyond the on-field success, Farrell has also grown the program, increasing participation from the high 30s to over 75 players. His decades of coaching experience have allowed him to mentor countless young athletes, many of whom have gone on to become first-generation college students. The Bison are set to host their first home conference game against the Glenbard South Raiders from Glen Ellyn on Friday night, Sept. 20.



Kaedon Phillips

This past Friday night, Sept. 13, senior running back Kaedon Phillips played a key role in leading the Sterling Golden Warriors to a narrow 27-26 home conference victory over the East Moline United Panthers from East Moline. The win propelled the Golden Warriors to first place in the Western Big 6 Conference. Throughout the game, the Golden Warriors struggled to take the lead until Phillips stepped up with game-changing plays, scoring three touchdowns, including two rare punt returns of 81 and 42 yards, and a rushing touchdown to complete his outstanding performance. With Phillips' individual performance and the team's overall effort, the Golden Warriors are building momentum, aiming to claim first place in their conference after finishing as runners-up for the past three seasons. They are also focused on making a run to the IHSA Class 5A State Championships. The Golden Warriors are set to face their conference rivals, the Galesburg Silver Streaks, at Galesburg Junior Senior High School on Friday night, Sept. 20.



About Boys High School Coach of the Week & High School All-Star

The Chicago Bears High School Coach of the Week program was launched in 1996 and the High School All-Star program in 2011. The High School 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 for the 2024 IHSA football season. Since the program's inception, the Chicago Bears have donated more than \$391,500 to Illinois high schools in support of their football programs. For more information, please visit ChicagoBears.com/Community/High-School-Football.

