

# CHICAGO BEARS ANNOUNCE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH OF THE WEEK AND ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS – WEEK 7

The Chicago Bears have officially named Thomas Hart, head coach of Joliet Central High School, as the Chicago Bears High School Coach of the Week and Myles Mitchell, running back from Richards High School in Oak Lawn, as the Chicago Bears High School All-Star award recipients for Week 7.

The Coach of the Week and High School All-Star awards, brought to you by Athletico Physical Therapy, recognize excellent leadership and performances 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 Joliet Central football program and a \$500 donation to the youth football program of Mitchell's choice.

## **Thomas Hart**

This past Friday night, Oct. 11, Head Coach Thomas (Tom) Hart led the Joliet Central Steelmen to a historic 37-17 win over the Plainfield Central Wildcats. This victory snaps the Steelmen's 36-game losing streak and marks Coach Hart's first win during his tenure as head coach. After struggling to find their offensive rhythm this season, Coach Hart's team came out electrified, scoring 37 points—their highest output since 2016. The elation surrounding this win, the team's first in nearly five years, was deserved; not a single player on the Joliet Central team had experienced a Varsity win for the program before this night. The dedication and hard work put in by the players this season and in years past are a testament to the leadership within the Steelmen program and Coach Hart. The journey to this victory was not easy, but Coach Hart's positive attitude has been a driving force, keeping the team committed to achieving their goals. In the offseason, Coach Hart took pride in the consistent effort his team displayed day in and day out. With steady improvement as the season progressed, the Steelmen are eager to build on this momentum and establish a new chapter in their program's history. Joliet Central and Coach Hart are eager to start a new streak—a win streak—when they take on the Romeoville Spartans at home on Friday, Oct. 18.



## **Myles Mitchell**

On Friday, Oct. 11, Myles Mitchell, senior running back for Richards High School, led his team to their fifth straight win, securing a 21-10 victory over Lemont High School. The Richards Bulldogs now stand at 6-1 on the season and remain in first place in the South Suburban Conference with a perfect 4-0 record. This season's success is largely due to Mitchell's impressive run game. In the game against Lemont, the three-year starter and two-year Varsity captain ran for an astounding 233 yards on 25 carries, including a game-changing 91-yard touchdown run. Mitchell's athleticism shines through as he showcases his versatility on both sides of the ball, taking defensive snaps as a linebacker and contributing as a receiver in various offensive sets. He also recorded two catches for 25 yards, including a 13-yard reception that added a second touchdown in the 21-10 victory on Friday. In October alone, Mitchell has amassed 424 rushing yards and seven touchdowns over just two games, bringing his season total to 19 touchdowns. His determination, leadership, and hard work have been instrumental in the Bulldogs' successful season. Off the field, Mitchell excels academically, personally and athletically as a three-sport athlete, embodying resilience and commitment to his family, team, and community. The Richards Bulldogs and Mitchell look to continue this season's success as they face Evergreen Park at home on Friday, Oct. 18.



## **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](http://ChicagoBears.com/Community/High-School-Football).

