

CHICAGO BEARS ANNOUNCE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' FLAG FOOTBALL COACH AND PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARD WINNERS - WEEK 8

The Chicago Bears have officially named Carlton Rosemond, head coach of Evanston Township High School in Evanston, as the Chicago Bears Girls' Flag Football Coach of the Week and Zariah Burnett, defensive back from Guilford High School in Rockford, as the Chicago Bears Girls' Flag Player of the Week for Week 8.

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 Evanston Township football program and a \$500 donation to the youth football program of Burnett's choice.

Carlton Rosemond

This past week, Coach Carlton Rosemond led the Evanston Wildkits to an extraordinary playoff run, securing their spot in the state quarterfinals with a series of upset victories. After losing to Maine South High School and Glenbrook South High School twice during the regular season, the 8th-seeded Wildkits regrouped and came back stronger, avenging those losses with a 20-8 victory over Maine South and a 14-0 shutout against Glenbrook South. They went on to defeat the number one seed, Taft High School, 14-12, securing their spot in the state quarterfinals. These wins propelled the Wildkits to their first-ever IHSA Sectional Championship. Coach Rosemond's strategic decisions have been key to the team's success. When key defensive players were sidelined by injuries, he promoted talented junior varsity players, including freshmen, to the varsity lineup. His foresight and confidence in his younger players were crucial during the sectional tournament, where their contributions helped secure these victories. Rosemond's ability to cultivate a competitive yet supportive environment has been instrumental in the team's development. He emphasizes discipline, attention to detail and instilling confidence in his players, allowing them to rise to the occasion in critical moments. Beyond his coaching achievements, Rosemond is deeply involved in the Evanston community. He is a founding board member and Vice President of the nonprofit Kuumba Evanston, which serves children and families of color in the area. Rosemond also volunteers his time with the Wildkits' flag football program, coaching his two daughters who are key players on the team.



Zariah Burnett

This past week, junior defensive back Zariah Burnett help lead the Rockford Guilford Vikings to securing their spot in the state quarterfinals. In the sectional semifinals on Oct. 15 against Jacobs High School, Burnett opened the game with a bang, returning an interception for a touchdown on just the second play, ultimately winning 36-6. She went on to record four total interceptions in the game, with three of them returned for touchdowns. The very next day on Oct. 16 against Lakes Community High School, in the sectional final, Burnett delivered another electrifying performance, returning an interception 105 yards for a touchdown, helping the Vikings win the sectional title with a 37-12 score and advance to the state quarterfinals. Burnett's defensive dominance has been unmatched this season, as she currently leads the state in interceptions with 22. Her playmaking ability has been a key factor in the Vikings' success. As a two-sport athlete, Burnett's athletic talents extend beyond flag football. Last year, as a sophomore, she was instrumental in helping Guilford win their third consecutive conference title. Additionally, Burnett excelled in track and field, winning the Class 3A state high jump championship and is a two-year varsity starter on the basketball team. Off the field, Burnett gives back to her community by volunteering at a local food pantry.



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.

