

AMELIA FERNANDEZ NAMED FIFTH RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 CHICAGO BEARS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR AWARD

Recognizing student-athletes who go above and beyond for their communities and schools

The Chicago Bears proudly announce Amelia Fernandez, a junior at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Ill., as the fifth recipient of the 2025 Community High School All-Star Award. The Community High School All-Star Award, brought to you by Athletico Physical Therapy, recognizes high school football and girls flag football players who make a positive impact in their communities and schools. From February through April, nine student-athletes will be honored for their leadership, character and dedication to community service.

Amelia is a standout athlete, excelling in flag football and basketball, where she has played varsity for both teams over the past two seasons, an accomplishment no other athlete at Maine South has achieved. She finished this past season with 65 receptions, 994 yards and 17 touchdowns, ranking 14th in the state for receiving. Her contributions helped both her flag football and basketball teams earn No. 1 rankings in Illinois for a significant part of the 2024 season.



The Maine South flag football team had a 23-2 regular season record and finished 10-1 in conference, marking an impressive second-year performance since the team's inception. While the team's journey ended with a tough loss to Evanston High School in the IHSA Regional Finals, Amelia's leadership and athleticism were central to the team's success. Additionally, her determination was crucial in helping Maine South earn a spot in the National NFL Flag Championship this summer after their victory in the NFL Flag Chicago Bears Regional Tournament.

Amelia's influence reaches far beyond athletics. A natural leader, she recognized the responsibility that comes with being a student-athlete and suggested that the flag football team adopt a community charity. Her leadership led the team to partner with The Good Food Pantry, organizing a highly successful food drive on Senior Night and creating an Instagram video to raise awareness for food donations.

Amelia's peers recognized her leadership qualities by voting her team captain, a role she embraced wholeheartedly. She took on the responsibility of mentoring younger teammates, guiding them through the sport with patience and encouragement. Despite personal challenges, including her grandmother's illness, Amelia continued to demonstrate resilience and dedication, culminating in an outstanding Senior Night performance against Fremd High School, the eventual state champions. Amelia scored three touchdowns, recorded an interception and delivered a key performance in the playoffs.

Academically, Amelia is equally impressive. She maintains an unweighted GPA of 3.91 while taking a challenging course load of AP and accelerated classes. Amelia's ability to excel in academics, leadership and sports highlights her remarkable balance and work ethic.

Each Community High School All-Star recipient will receive a custom hand-painted football, a gift bag and an invitation to a future Chicago Bears event. Additionally, the Chicago Bears will donate \$500 to a charitable organization of the honoree's choosing.

About Community High School All-Star Award

This is the fifth year of the Community High School All-Star Award, which continues to highlight student-athletes who make meaningful contributions to their communities. In partnership with Athletico Physical Therapy, the Chicago Bears established this initiative to recognize high school football and girls flag football players who use their leadership and teamwork skills to create a positive impact during the offseason. By celebrating these young leaders, the Bears aim to inspire future generations to carry these values forward, both on and off the field.