

NOLAN BRASS NAMED SIXTH 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 Nolan Brass, a senior at Byron High School in Byron, Ill., as the sixth 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.

A two-sport athlete and four-year varsity letterman in both football and baseball, Brass has been a key contributor to Byron's football program throughout his high school career. He helped lead the Tigers to IHSA Class 3A State Championships in 2021 and 2023. This past fall, he guided the team to a 10-1 regular season and a first-place finish in their conference. Though the team came up short in the playoffs in the hunt for a back-to-back title, Brass' leadership helped keep Byron competitive at the highest level and continued their tradition as one of the top programs in the state.



Voted captain by his teammates, Brass earned All-Conference honors in both his junior and senior seasons. He was named to the News-Gazette's Special Mention All-State Team and was selected to play in the 51st Annual Illinois High School Shrine All-Star Game this summer. The event showcases top high school talent from across the state and helps raise money for Shriners Hospital for Children.

Beyond athletics, Brass has shown a deep commitment to his school and community. After learning about bullying incidents in his district, he created TIE, short for Totally Include Everyone, a student-led anti-bullying initiative that promotes inclusion and unity. Coaches describe Brass as a protector who is not afraid to stand up for anyone. Inspired by a team tradition where players tie their shoelaces together after a win, TIE encourages students to stay connected and support one another. The program has already been introduced in the district's elementary schools with plans to expand throughout the district.

In the classroom, Brass holds a 3.5 GPA and was named to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association 3A Academic All-State Team. This annual honor recognizes high school student-athletes across Illinois who excel both academically and athletically. He was also recently awarded the Son of the American Revolution Award, a character-based recognition selected by teachers and administrators. The award is given to a senior who exemplifies dependability, honesty, courtesy, leadership, patriotism, and an unselfish commitment to family, school and community.

This fall, Brass will continue his academic and athletic career at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where he plans to major in criminal justice and pursue a career in law enforcement.

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.