

# LEIA HAMMERSCHMIDT NAMED FINAL 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 Leia Hammerschmidt, a junior at Oak Park and River Forest High School in Oak Park, Ill., as the ninth and final 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.

Hammerschmidt is a three-sport varsity athlete, competing in girls flag football, basketball and softball. As a starting wide receiver and defensive back in flag football, she helped lead Oak Park and River Forest Huskies to a regional championship appearance this season. Although the team fell short against Lane Tech High School in the postseason, Hammerschmidt made sure to uplift her teammates by encouraging them and recognizing their collective growth and effort throughout the year.



On the basketball court, Hammerschmidt plays guard and was named team captain, helping guide the Huskies to the regional semifinals. In softball, she is the team's starting center fielder and currently maintains a .380 batting average. Through her contributions, the team currently holds a 14-4 season record and is ranked among the top 25 teams in Illinois as they continue their pursuit of an IHSA state championship appearance. Across all three sports, her coaches consistently highlight her work ethic, versatility and commitment to putting her team in the best position to succeed.

Alongside athletics, Hammerschmidt balances a 4.57 weighted GPA while taking a challenging academic schedule that includes four Advanced Placement courses and a college-level physics course during her junior year. She has earned High Honor Roll recognition every semester and is a member of the National Honor Society, which recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Beyond the classroom and playing fields, Hammerschmidt is deeply involved in community service through her work with Beyond Hunger, a nonprofit organization serving 13 ZIP codes in Cook County, including parts of Chicago and its near-west suburbs. Her volunteer efforts include leading food drives, packing and distributing meals and participating in public outreach events to raise awareness about food insecurity and encourage broader community involvement.

"The Chicago Bears organization actively supports initiatives that address social issues, and Leia's dedication to fighting food insecurity aligns perfectly with their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others," said Girls Flag Football Head Coach Jim Geovanis. "She embodies the spirit of giving back to the community, just as the Bears strive to do through their various charitable endeavors."

Hammerschmidt's involvement with Beyond Hunger not only provides tangible support to families in need but also reinforces her aspirations to pursue a career in the medical field. Her service work has given her valuable perspective on community health challenges while helping develop key interpersonal skills she plans to carry into her future profession.

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.