

CHICAGO BEARS NAME DANIELLE STONE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR AWARD

The Chicago Bears announce Danielle Stone, a junior student-athlete at Oswego East High School, as the first recipient of the 2026 Community High School All-Star Award, brought to you by Athletico Physical Therapy.

The program recognizes high school football and girls flag football players who demonstrate leadership, character and meaningful community involvement beyond the game. From March through April, nine student-athletes will be honored for their commitment to service, academic achievement and creating a positive impact within their schools and communities.

Stone was nominated by her high school coaches for the leadership, character and commitment to service she consistently demonstrates both on and off the field. They describe her impact as extending well beyond athletics through the example she sets for her peers and school community.

From a young age, Stone has made community service a part of her everyday life. She volunteers with Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization that provides meals to children and families facing food insecurity around the world. At school, she also uses her lunch period to serve as a peer tutor, offering academic support and encouragement to fellow students. Her parents instilled in her the importance of helping others and using her time and talents to make a difference in her community.

While Stone continues to support her community in every way she can, she also remains committed to her academic growth and leadership development. In the classroom, Stone maintains a 4.436 GPA while balancing advanced coursework, varsity athletics and leadership responsibilities. She is a state qualifier in Business Professionals of America (BPA), a national organization that prepares students for careers in business and entrepreneurship through academic competition and professional development. Stone also serves on Oswego East's Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leader Team, a student-led group focused on mentorship, leadership development and building a positive culture among peers.

That same leadership is transferable on the field, where Stone consistently shows up for her teammates. She helped make history during Oswego East's inaugural girls flag football season in 2025, leading the program to both a Southwest Prairie Conference Championship and a Regional Championship. As the team's quarterback and safety, she impacted every phase of the game, accounting for 32 passing touchdowns, 10 rushing touchdowns and seven interceptions while helping lead her team to a 15-5 overall regular season record. Her versatility, composure and football IQ established a strong foundation for a brand-new varsity program and set a standard for those who follow.

Her overall performance earned her recognition as a Chicago Bears All-State selection, Southwest Prairie Conference Offensive MVP and Shaw Local Record Newspaper Girls Flag Football Player of the Year. In addition to her success in flag football, Stone is a standout multi-sport athlete, earning All-State, All-Conference and All-Area honors in softball during her sophomore season. Stone continues to look for ways to improve as the team aims to build on its success and pursue an IHSA state championship next season.

As part of the Community High School All-Star Award, each 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. Stone has selected a local hospital to receive the \$500 donation.

About Community High School All-Star Award

Now in its sixth year, the Community High School All-Star Award continues to highlight student-athletes who make meaningful contributions to their schools and communities. In partnership with Athletico Physical Therapy, the Chicago Bears created this initiative to recognize high school football and girls flag football players who use their leadership, teamwork and service to create a lasting impact beyond the season. The program encourages student-athletes to stay engaged in their communities during the offseason, using their platform to give back through volunteerism, mentorship and service initiatives. Since its inception, the program has recognized more than 45 student-athletes and contributed more than \$22,500 to charitable organizations selected by the honorees.

