

CHICAGO BEARS NAME FRANCESCA GALLICCHIO SIXTH RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR AWARD

The Chicago Bears announce Francesca Gallichio, a sophomore student-athlete at John Hancock College Prep in Chicago, Ill., as the sixth recipient of the 2026 Community High School All-Star Award, brought to you by Athletico Physical Therapy.

As part of its ongoing recognition of high school student-athletes throughout March and April who demonstrate leadership, character and a positive impact beyond the game, the Chicago Bears highlight Gallichio for her continued commitment to serving others while balancing academic and athletic responsibilities.

Nominated by her coaches, Gallichio was described as a student-athlete who leads through initiative, consistency and a team-first mindset in everything she does. One of the ways she demonstrates her leadership is through her commitment to giving back, reflected in her involvement in local coat drives, where she plays an active role in collecting, organizing and distributing winter essentials to support community members during Chicago's coldest months. She also volunteers her time as a peer tutor, using her academic strengths to assist classmates with coursework.

In addition to her community contributions, Gallichio brings a steady and thoughtful approach to leadership across her athletic commitments, including her roles on her school's girls flag football and soccer teams. Known for her calm demeanor, she provides a consistent presence among teammates and peers, helping strengthen communication and build connections across the group.

Throughout the season, she embraced greater responsibility within the flag football program, guiding teammates through assignments and on-field responsibilities while serving as a trusted extension of the coaching staff during practices and games. Her ability to organize, communicate and keep the team aligned has played a key role in strengthening team chemistry, and while leadership roles are often associated with more experienced senior student-athletes, her natural ability to lead in a competitive setting has earned her the respect of her teammates and coaches at a young age.

Following the conclusion of the program's second full season, where the team narrowly missed a CPS girls flag football title, she and her teammates have remained focused during the offseason, continuing to build toward the goal of bringing the school its first championship since the program's launch in 2024.

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.

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.

