# Tucker's Automotive Repair & Tire Male Athlete Of The Month: Marquette Catholic Linebacker Aidan Hayes Leads Through Hard Work

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
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ALTON - Marquette Catholic's Aidan Hayes was one Explorers player who thrived on the football field this past fall, and he was one of the keys to the team's playoff appearance and overall success with his hard work and determination.

“I do love playing football,” Hayes said.

Hayes is a Tucker's Automotive Repair and Tire Male Athlete Of The Month.




Hayes is looking at various colleges to continue playing in 2027 after he graduates from Marquette Catholic, but nothing firm has been decided at this point.

Hayes said he was happy and proud of what the Explorers team accomplished during his time as a player, describing this season and the previous year as two great seasons. Beyond the results, he valued the relationships he built with teammates and coaches.

He described the team as a family and its coaches as encouraging and welcoming. The brotherhood and memories stood out most to him.

That connection was especially strong among the linebackers. Hayes said the smaller group was close, with players encouraging one another and forming friendships.

Linebackers coach Eric Dickerson described Hayes as “a great player” who provided significant leadership through his work ethic and approach to the game.

Hayes identified Dickerson as his favorite coach, saying the two got to know each other well over four years.

Weight training also played an important role in Hayes' development as a player. He said the weight program helped him tremendously and credited strength coach Aaron with showing him what hard work requires. Hayes described Aaron as an encouraging coach and one of the best strength coaches he has had.

Hayes has visited Aurora University to watch a football game and said he wants to continue playing after this season, though he would be all right if that opportunity does not materialize.

In the spring, Hayes plays baseball. He focuses primarily on the outfield but has also played first base and other positions.

At the plate, Hayes said he enjoys the competition and believes he has improved over the years. He welcomes difficult pitching as an opportunity to develop.

"I like going up against the hardest stuff to get better," Hayes said.