

**SUNRISE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE
YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Sayan Hobbi of Sunrise Mountain High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Hobbi as Arizona’s best high school boys soccer player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Alecko Eskandarian (1999-00, Bergen Catholic High School, New Jersey), Cristian Roldan (2012-13, El Rancho High School, California) and Dan Klink (2024-25, Loyola Blakefield, Maryland).

The 5-foot-10, 140-pound junior forward led the Mustangs to a 19-3-3 record and the Open Division state championship this past season. Hobbi scored 40 goals and passed for 14 assists, including one of each in Sunrise Mountain’s 4-3 overtime win over Mica Mountain High School in the state final. The Arizona Republic Player of the Year, he was a First Team All-Conference 5A selection and concluded his junior year with 60 goals and 29 assists in his prep career.

Hobbi has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and he has donated his time as a youth soccer coach and referee. “Sayan is an incredible goal-scorer with a natural eye for (the net),” said Paul Barron, the interim head coach of Liberty High School. “He works exceptionally hard on both sides of the ball and consistently finds ways to create opportunities.”

Hobbi has maintained a 3.16 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school his fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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