

**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Wyatt Marksberry of Bentonville High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Marksberry as Arkansas’ 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, 150-pound senior forward led the Tigers to a 15-3-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Marksberry scored 19 goals and passed for 13 assists, including two goals and an assist in Bentonville’s 5-1 win over Har-Ber High School in the state final. The Class 6A West Conference Player of the Year, he is a three-time 6A West Conference First Team selection.

Marksberry helped launch a free after-school program for at-risk youth, assisting with physical activities, social interaction, schoolwork and behavioral accountability. He has also volunteered locally maintaining a soccer complex and as a mentor to other high school soccer players as they navigate the college recruitment process. “Wyatt made an impact on the wing and also in the midfield in transition,” said Jesse Wolf, head coach of Bryant High School. “He’s a hard player to defend and is really good on the ball.”

Marksberry has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at John Brown University this 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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