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# THE CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Michael Capretto of The Charter School of Wilmington is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware 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 Capretto as Delaware'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-8, 145-pound senior forward scored 15 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Forces to a 9-2-4 record. The 2025 Delaware High School Coaches Association Player of the Year, Capretto is a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree. He's ranked as the nation's No. 35 recruit in his class by PrepSoccer.com and concluded his prep career with 67 goals and 24 assists.

Capretto is a member of his school's Heart2Heart Project, a student-led community service organization with a focus on community outreach, empathy-building and philanthropic initiatives. He's also a member of the Sports Management Club, which simulates professional sports front office conditions to teach and improve students' skills understanding and analyzing sports organizations and how team design works across multiple sports. "Michael is not only a once-in-a-lifetime player, but a leader," said Jon Gillespie, head coach of Charter School of Wilmington. "He had to battle man-marking, double-teams and sometimes more by opposing teams scheming defensively to neutralize him. Through it all, he still did great things on the field."

Capretto has maintained a weighted 3.84 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of Notre Dame 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 or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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