

**MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Robert Calazans of Mandarin High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Florida 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 Calazans as Florida’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-7, 125-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Mustangs to a 16-5-2 record and the Class 6A state final this past season. Calazans scored 33 goals and passed for 14 assists, recording a goal and an assist in his final game, a 3-2 loss to Sunlake High. A Times Union First Team selection, he was also the NewsforJax and Class 6A Player of the Year.

Calazans has volunteered locally on behalf of his church community as part of multiple initiatives to support those in need. He has also donated his time with the Jacksonville Parks and Rec department, helping to keep the city clean and preserve nature in the area. “Robert is a special player,” said Nease High head coach Fred Hallet. “He’s quick, works hard, loves the game and has all the markings of a quality player. I believe that his team’s success these last two seasons speaks to Robert’s character as much as it does his soccer skill. It’s rare that a young man has both and I couldn’t be happier that such a deserving accolade be awarded to a player of Robert’s ilk.”

Calazans has maintained a 3.48 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Florida 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).

###