

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Henry Sanders of Saint Louis University High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Missouri 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 Sanders as Missouri’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 6-foot-0, 165-pound senior midfielder led the Junior Billikens to a 20-3-2 record and the Class 4 state championship this past season. Sanders scored 9 goals and passed for 11 assists and helped control the tempo and run of play throughout games all year long. The Class 4 and St. Louis Post Dispatch Player of the Year, he was also a 2025-26 United Soccer Coaches All-American.

Sanders has volunteered locally with SPENSA, an organization that runs soccer programs for young children with intellectual and physical challenges. He has also donated his time as part of community services initiatives with his church at Francis Park. “While his talent is evident by watching him play and by the stats he accumulates, what makes Henry elite is his work rate off the ball,” said Brian Haddock, head coach of Vianney High School. “His ability to be a two-way impact while leading a team of talented players is impressive. As an opposing coach, I think the best compliment I can give an elite player like Henry is his ability to not only be the best player on the field, but also make every player around him better.”

Sanders has maintained a 3.74 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at Saint Louis 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 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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