

**NEW ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 Londen Sears of New Albany High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Ohio 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 Sears as Ohio’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-1, 175-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Eagles to a 15-2-1 record and the Division II regional final this past season. Sears has been consistently prolific throughout his career, scoring 58 goals and passing for 67 assists throughout his four years. The No. 177 prospect in his class and the No. 13 recruit regionally on TopDrawerSoccer, he was a two-time United Soccer Coaches All-American as well as a two-time Central District, Capital Conference and Division II state Player of the Year.

Sears has donated his time at youth soccer camps for both his school and his club helping spread his love for the game and inspire the next generation. “I firmly believe Londen is one of the most complete and impactful high school soccer players to come through Ohio in recent years,” said Chris Vonau, St. Charles Preparatory School head coach. “He’s consistently demonstrated the qualities that separate elite players from great ones: technical excellence, athleticism, intelligence, leadership and an unwavering competitive drive. What truly makes Londen special, however, is how difficult he is to defend. I can confidently say that preparing a team to defend Londen Sears is one of the most challenging tasks a coach can face.”

Sears has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at Akron 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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