

WALNUT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 Mason Kutch of Walnut Grove High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Texas 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 Kutch as Texas’ 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, 155-pound senior midfielder led the Wildcats to a 31-0 record, including 59 consecutive wins and a second straight Conference 5A, Division 1 state championship this past season. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Kutch scored 53 goals and passed for 17 assists, including one of each in Walnut Grove’s 2-0 win over College Station High School in the state final, earning game MVP honors in the process. Also a two-time Dallas Morning News Player of the Year, he was a 2025-26 United Soccer Coaches Winter-Spring High School All-American and concluded his prep career with 154 goals and 60 assists.

Kutch has volunteered locally with Powered to Move, an organization that helps people with intellectual and physical challenges stay active. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of Chefs to Shelters, which provides food for people in need. “Mason was an unbelievable player (this season),” said Justin Lowry, head coach of Melissa High School. “From the opening whistle, everyone watching could immediately tell he was different. He stood out like a sore thumb—in the best way possible.”

Kutch has maintained a weighted 4.29 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at DePaul 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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