

KELLY WALSH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 Ethan Leslie of Kelly Walsh High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Wyoming 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 Leslie as Wyoming’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, 155-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Trojans to a 17-2-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Leslie scored 31 goals and passed for 10 assists to spark the title run, netting all four tallies in a 4-1 title-game victory. A longtime USYS West Region Regional ID Camp invitee, he played for the Wyoming 307 Select team from 2017-25.

Leslie has volunteered locally on behalf of TOPSoccer, a U.S. Youth Soccer program serving young athletes with physical and intellectual challenges. He has also donated his time to the Wyoming Sports Ranch and Jae’s Boot Foundation in addition to serving as a youth soccer referee and coach. An All-State punter for the Trojans’ football team, he launched a car-detailing business with a friend in 2024 which continues to operate today. “This is an easy recommendation for me for Gatorade Player of the Year: Ethan Leslie of Kelly Walsh High School is my top choice,” said Chris Stier, head coach at Natrona County High. “He just led his team to a state championship, scoring all four goals in the title game against the defending state champs. He’s the all-time leading goal scorer at his school and his playing ability is at a level you just don’t see from many high school players in Wyoming.”

Leslie has maintained a 3.2 GPA in the classroom. He will play soccer at Casper Junior College 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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