

APPOQUINIMINK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 16, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Thomas Hastings of Appoquinimink High School is the 2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hastings is the fourth Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Appoquinimink High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Hastings as Delaware’s best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Hastings joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound senior defender led the Jaguars to a 12-5 record and a trip to the Division I semifinals this past season. Hastings scored 10 goals and added 11 assists while garnering First-Team All-State honors. He’s rated as the nation’s No. 29 recruit by PrepSoccer.com.

Hastings, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes four years ago, has volunteered locally as an ambassador with Diabetes Training Camp, which offers coaching and education for athletes with diabetes. He also has donated his time leading a district-wide fundraiser called Beads for Diabetes, with proceeds going to Diabetes Training Camp. “His close-down speed and intelligence to defend makes him one of the most dominant defenders in the state in the past five years at least,” said RJ Dina, Sussex Academy head coach. “He reads the game incredibly well and can adjust his style of play to consistently find success.”

Hastings has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has decided to stay close to home and will be attending the University of Delaware this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Hastings joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake Ross (2021-22, Salesianum School), Aidan McDade (2020-21, Appoquinimink High School), Drew Blackwell (2019-20, Salesianum School), and Tommy McGrail (2018-19, Salesianum School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade’s Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners, supporting Gatorade’s ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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