

ST. BENEDICT'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Ransford Gyan of St. Benedict's Preparatory School is the 2022-23 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gyan is the eighth Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Benedict's Preparatory 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 Gyan as New Jersey'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, Gyan 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-4, 135-pound junior midfielder led the Gray Bees to a 17-0 record and the Non-Public Prep A Tournament state championship this past season. Gyan scored 20 goals and passed for 14 assists, recording at least one point in 16 of St. Benedict's Preparatory School 17 games to lead the Gray Bees to the country's No. 1 ranking United Soccer Coaches Super 25 poll. Gyan won the Golden Boot at the United States Youth Soccer Association's 2022 Under-18 National Championships as his club team, Cedar Stars Academy, captured the national title. A two-time First Team All-New Jersey Prep honoree, he's ranked as the nation's No. 12 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepSoccer.com.

Gyan has volunteered locally at a food pantry, and he has donated his time as a youth soccer coach and camp counselor. "Ransford is a special player who plays for an outstanding team," said Chad Bridges, head coach of The Pennington School. "He can change the game in the blink of any eye with a play that forces you to rewatch the film to find out how he did it. Even when you think you have the game under control, Ransford can instantly change the game."

Gyan has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Two-time winner Gyan joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Micaah Garnette (2020-21, Gill St. Bernard's School), Brendan McSorley (2019-20, Delbarton School), and Tommy Scalici (2018-19, Morris Knolls High 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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