NASHUA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Santiago Somorrostro of Nashua South High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Somorrostro is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Nashua South High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Somorrostro as New Hampshire's best high school boys soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Lyle Yorks (1987-88, E.O. Smith High School, Conn.), Alecko Eskandarian (1999-00, Bergen Catholic High School, N.J.) and Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior midfielder scored 25 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Panthers (15-3) to the Division I state quarterfinals. Somorrostro is a two-time First Team All-State selection and a two-time United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 48 goals and 43 assists.

Somorrostro has volunteered locally with the Humane Society of Nashua as well as the Salvation Army. He has also donated his time on behalf of the Nashua South Student Mentor program and as part of community beautification projects. "Santiago is an exceptional talent," said Tom Bellen, head coach of Nashua High School South. "He played wherever we needed him this year to (keep us) competitive. He is an extremely well-rounded student-athlete."

Somorrostro has maintained a weighted 4.65 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 Somorrostro joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Players of the Year Eric Ringer (2021-22, Hanover High School), Samuel Latona (2020-21, Manchester Central High School) and Charlie Adams (2019-20, Hanover High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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 \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.