

**KAISER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 16, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ian Ngonethong** of **Kaiser High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Ngonethong is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Kaiser 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 Ngonethong as Hawaii'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, Ngonethong joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02 & 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-9, 155-pound senior midfielder scored 11 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Cougars (14-2-1) to third place in the Division 1 state tournament. The Oahu Interscholastic Association East Player of the Year, Ngonethong was selected to the Honolulu Star Advertiser Stellar Eleven. He was also named to the ScoringLive All-Hawaii First Team.

Ngonethong has volunteered locally on behalf of an afterschool program for younger students and a youth soccer team. "Ngonethong has the full package," said Ian Mork, head coach at Seabury Hall. "He's got great ability on both sides of the ball. Technically he's really sound, he has a good shot and a great work rate. He's a tremendous leader."

Ngonethong has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Oregon State University this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Ngonethong joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jonah Kawamura (2020-21, Iolani School), Johnnie Dodge (2019-20, Punahou School), Skyler Goo (2018-19, Saint Louis School), and Alex Liu (2017-18, Iolani School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Ngonethong has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Ngonethong is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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.