

**ACADEMY OF HOLY ANGELS STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Carter Hermanson** of **Academy of Holy Angels** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Hermanson is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Academy of Holy Angels.

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 Hermanson as Minnesota'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, Hermanson 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 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 19 goals and passed for 24 assists this past season, leading the Stars (15-4-2) to the Class AA state championship game. Class AA's Mr. Soccer, Hermanson is a two-time First Team All-State selection. He was also named an All-American by the United Soccer Coaches.

Also an ice hockey standout, Hermanson has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, the Burnsville Special Hockey team and an inner city youth futsal (small court soccer) program. "Carter Hermanson is an immense athlete with an excellent touch to match," said Ryan Nichols, head coach at DeLaSalle High School. "He can take on any defender 1v1, hold up the play for his teammates and win aerial duels. He's also a vocal leader and an absolute inspiration to anyone he plays with."

Hermanson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will attend St. John's University (Minn.) 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.

Hermanson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zach Susee (2020-21, Shakopee High School), Jameson Charles (2019-20, Washburn High School), Herbert Endeley (2018-19, Totino-Grace High School), and Patrick Weah (2017-18, Wayzata High 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, Hermanson 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. Hermanson 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.

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