

**HELLGATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 16, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Marcus Anderson** of **Hellgate High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Anderson is the fifth Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hellgate 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 Anderson as Montana'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, Anderson 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-8, 165-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Knights to a 16-0-2 record and a third-straight Class AA state championship this past season. Anderson tallied 13 goals and 23 assists, including the lone goal in overtime as Hellgate beat Glacier High, 1-0, in the state title game. The Montana High School Association State Player of the Year, Anderson also had a goal and assist in Hellgate's 2-1 victory over Billings Senior High in the state quarterfinals and he recorded the assist on the game-winner in his team's 1-0 win over Billings West High in the semifinals. He concluded his prep soccer career with 49 goals and a state-record 79 assists.

Anderson has volunteered locally as a youth math tutor and has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Marcus was the one opponent we had to make sure didn't hurt us, which of course he invariably did," said Gary Stein, former coach of Sentinel High School. "Marcus always stands out and he has the singular ability to turn a match."

Anderson has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Fort Lewis College in Colorado 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Beckett Arthur (2020-21, Hellgate High School), Zach Springer (2019-20, Bozeman High School), Ted Scott (2018-19, Bozeman High School), and Matt Baldrige (2017-18, Hellgate 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, Anderson 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. Anderson 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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