

**PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Yuval Cohen** of **Palo Verde High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Cohen is the third Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Palo Verde 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 Cohen as Nevada'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, Cohen 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 sophomore forward led the Panthers to a 22-2-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Cohen tallied 41 goals and 14 assists, including one of each in Palo Verde's 3-0 win over Hug High in the state title game. In five postseason games, Cohen recorded five goals and five assists. The Class 5A Player of the Year, he was also the Mountain League Offensive Player of the Year.

Cohen has volunteered locally with Kiss Is 4Kidz, a performing arts program for children with special abilities. "Yuval produced in a competitive 5A conference where every game was a battle," said Josh Jones, head coach of Southeast Career Technical Academy. "Palo Verde's offense ran through Cohen. Not only did he score a lot of goals this season, but his presence on the field completely changed how teams defended them."

Cohen has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Cohen joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Players of the Year Diesel Fiore (2020-21, Bishop Gorman High School), Caden Buckley (2019-20, Bishop Gorman High School), Alfredo Diaz (2018-19, Coronado High School), and John Lynam (2017-18, Coronado 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, Cohen 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. Cohen 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).