

**ST. BENEDICT'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Ransford Gyan** of **St. Benedict's Preparatory School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Gyan is the eighth Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Benedict's Preparatory 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 Gyan as New Jersey'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, Gyan 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-4, 134-pound sophomore midfielder led the Gray Bees to a 15-0-2 record and the Non-Public Prep A Tournament state championship this past season. Gyan tallied 18 goals and 14 assists, including one assist in St. Benedict's 2-1 win over the Pennington School in the state title game. He was a First Team All-New Jersey Prep selection and led SBP to a No. 2 national ranking for the fall, 2021 season.

Gyan has volunteered locally at a food pantry, and has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and counselor. "Ransford was on a different level," said Malcolm Murphy, head coach of the Peddie School. "He has great pace and he's clinical with the ball at his feet. He's very creative in and around the box. He led by example in his work rate and his commitment to compete on both sides of the ball."

Gyan has maintained a 3.70 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.

Gyan joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Micaah Garnette (2020-21, Gill St. Bernard's School), Brendan McSorley (2019-20, Delbarton School), Tommy Scalici (2018-19, Morris Knolls High School), and Sebastian Chalbaud (2017-18, St. Benedict's Preparatory 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, Gyan 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. Gyan 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.