

**SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Daniel D'Ippolito** of **Somers High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. D'Ippolito is the first Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Somers 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 D'Ippolito as New York'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, D'Ippolito 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-11, 170-pound senior midfielder scored 36 goals and passed for 38 assists this past season, leading the Tuskers (22-1) to the Class A state championship. D'Ippolito was a United Soccer Coaches All-American and the New York State Player of the Year. He was also Westchester/Putnam Player of the Year and Section 1 Player of the Year.

A peer leader in his school, D'Ippolito has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and United for the Troops, supporting deployed members of the military. "D'Ippolito is a fantastic, creative soccer player," said Donald Shropshire, head coach at Horace Greeley High School. "He really carried his team on his shoulders this season and was the main reason Somers won a state title. He works hard and always puts his team first ... honestly, he was above everybody else all year."

D'Ippolito has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Fordham University 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.

D'Ippolito joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Players of the Year Francesco Pagano (2020-21, Fayetteville-Manlius High School), Yaya Bakayoko (2019-20, Martin Luther King High School), and Ousseni Bouda (2018-19 & 2017-18, Millbrook 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, D'Ippolito 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. D'Ippolito 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.