

**SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Sumner Nenninger** of **South Burlington High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Nenninger is the sixth Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Nenninger as Vermont'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, Nenninger 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, 160-pound senior forward scored 17 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Wolves (14-4-1) to the Division 1 state championship game. A United Soccer Coaches All-American, Nenninger was also a First Team All-State selection. He was also the Metro Division Player of the Year.

Nenninger has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and youth recreational programs. "He is one of the most dynamic players with the ball at his feet in recent memory," said Jake Orr, head coach at Essex High School. "He's a very dangerous scorer, but he also did a nice job distributing the ball once teams started to bring two or three defenders his way."

Nenninger has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Elon 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.

Nenninger joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Chance Rose (2020-21, Milton High School), Cullen Swett (2019-20, Champlain Valley Union High School), Pablo Gonzalez Rotger (2018-19, St. Johnsbury Academy), and Patrick O'Hara (2017-18, South Burlington 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, Nenninger 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. Nenninger 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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