

**COLONY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 16, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **David Elliott** of **Colony High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Elliott is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Colony 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 Elliott as Alaska'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, Elliott joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-4, 145-pound senior forward led the Knights to a 20-1-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Elliott led the state with 21 goals and added 12 assists. He earned both Railbelt Conference Player of the Year and All-State honors.

Elliott has volunteered locally shoveling snow for elderly neighbors and offering classmates rides to school during a bus driver strike. He also has donated his time to an annual charity drive for Children's Miracle Network, helping organize and run an event that has raised \$20,000 for children's hospitals. "David is tenacious—he just has an extra gear and drive," said Dan Rufner, Service High School head coach. "He is naturally incredibly fast, but it's more his mindset to always go 110 percent (that stands out). He's got a very competitive, winner's attitude. I like that he goes hard, (plays the body) hard, plays hard, but is never arrogant and will be the first to check on an opponent he plows over."

Elliott has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to attend Tacoma Community College, where he will play soccer, beginning 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.

Elliott joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Joseph Butzke (2021-22, Dimond High School), Hatcher Manning (2020-21, Service High School), Vaughn Simpson (2019-20, West Valley High School), and Jack Green (2018-19, West Anchorage High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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).