

**DAVIS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 16, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Simon Vaca-Lorenzi** of **Davis Senior High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Vaca-Lorenzi is the second Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Davis Senior 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 Vaca-Lorenzi as California'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, Vaca-Lorenzi 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 6-foot, 165-pound senior forward led the Blue Devils to a 22-0-2 record and the Sac-Joaquin Section Division I title. Vaca-Lorenzi scored 25 goals and passed for 13 assists, including the lone goal in a 1-0 win over Clovis North High School as Davis Senior High School capped its season by winning the Northern California Division I Regional tournament championship. The Delta League Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 51 goals and 36 assists.

Vaca-Lorenzi has volunteered locally as a peer Spanish language tutor and as a youth soccer coach. "Simon is an extremely instinctive player who understands spacing and angles better than any high school forward I have seen in many years in the Sacramento area," said Joel Williams, head coach of Whitney High School. "When he finds the ball in the tight pockets, he is clinical in his finishing, rarely wasting a chance. He's an incredible player."

Vaca-Lorenzi has maintained a weighted 4.25 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at California State University, Sacramento 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.

Vaca-Lorenzi joins recent Gatorade California Boys Soccer Players of the Year Eddie Villeda (2021-22, Servite High School), Alex Halevy (2020-21, Garces Memorial High School), Andrew Valverde (2019-20, North High School), and Blake Bowen (2018-19, San Clemente 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 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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