

**VIERA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Max May** of **Viera High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. May is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Viera 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 May as Florida'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, May 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-7, 165-pound junior forward led the Hawks to a 21-0-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. May scored 20 goals and passed for 22 assists, recording one of each in Viera's 4-2 win over Fort Myers High School in the state title game. The state's Mr. Soccer winner and the Class 6A State Player of the Year, he concluded his junior year with 38 goals and 31 assists in his prep soccer career.

May has volunteered locally with Letters to Strangers, a youth organization seeking to destigmatize mental health issues. He has also donated his time packing supplies for shelters serving the unhoused, and as a youth soccer coach. "Max was a constant offensive threat," said Clovis Simas, head coach of Satellite High School. "His intensity, his speed and ability made a positive impact on his team. Max has a great combination of skills with high speed. He is very powerful physically and a smart player."

May has maintained a weighted 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

May joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Players of the Year Santiago Castaneda (2021-22, Tampa Preparatory School), Marcello Valbuena (2020-21, Tampa Catholic High School), Santa Ihara (2019-20, Montverde Academy), and Leo Perez (2018-19, Mariner 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).

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