

**TIMBERLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Kai Hatten** of **Timberline High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Hatten is the third Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Timberline 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 Hatten as Idaho'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, Hatten 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-2, 165-pound senior midfielder led the Wolves to a 20-0-2 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Hatten scored 14 goals and passed for 11 assists. The Class 5A State Player of the Year and the Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year, he missed the first six games of the season with an injury.

A member of the Boise City Honors Orchestra, Hatten plays both the piano and violin. He has volunteered locally at a food bank and women's shelter, and he has donated his time as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Kai was the one we worried about the most as his movement off the ball was very dynamic," said Bill Taylor, head coach of Rocky Mountain High School. "He had a great sense of how to control the flow of the game. We had to specifically try to mark him out of the game as much as possible, but it was very difficult."

Hatten has maintained a weighted 4.31 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Santa Clara University (Calif.) 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.

Hatten joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Players of the Year Carlos Camacho (2021-22, Borah High School), Damian Arguello (2020-21, Caldwell High School), Jordan Sykes (2019-20, Skyview High School), and Kristian Quiros (2018-19, Rocky Mountain 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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