

**MARION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Jackson Kirsch** of **Marion High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Kirsch is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marion 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 Kirsch as Iowa'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, Kirsch 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-10, 165-pound senior forward led the Wolves to a 19-1 record and a berth in the 3A state semifinals this past season. Kirsch scored a state-record 70 goals and added 15 assists. He earned both 3A First-Team All-State and All-Tournament Team honors.

Kirsch has volunteered locally as a coach at youth soccer camps. He also has donated his time as a peer tutor after school. "He's a machine: Fast, strong, powerful," said Johnston High School head coach Jim Frizzell. "He finished his chances, he's a really good athlete and soccer player and a really selfless kid even though he's kind of a one-man show."

Kirsch has maintained a 4.11 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Drake 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.

Kirsch joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Lucas Newhard (2021-22, Ankeny High School), CJ Coppola (2020-21, Waukee High School), Alan Kim (2019-20, Kennedy High School), and Roderick Orellana-Lemus (2018-19, Lincoln 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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