

**DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Travis Smith** of **DuPont Manual High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Smith is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from DuPont Manual 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 Smith as Kentucky'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, Smith 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-1, 170-pound senior defender and defensive central midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Crimson (15-7-1) to the Seventh Region Tournament semifinals. A First Team All-State selection, Smith participated in the High School All-American Game in December. He was a 2021-22 Elite Club National League All-American honoree with his club soccer team.

Smith has volunteered locally with Jack and Jill of America, serving as the Derby City chapter's financial secretary. He has also donated his time as a peer math tutor and as a youth soccer coach. "Travis is a difference-maker and is extremely difficult to coach against," said Chad Wozniak, head coach of Louisville Collegiate School. "He can play all over the field. His impact is outstanding, and I cannot coach against him without knowing where he is at all times."

Smith has maintained a weighted 4.01 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Wake Forest 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nate Traughber (2021-22, Kentucky Country Day School), Noah Moeller (2020-21, Larry A. Ryle High School), Sota Ippongi (2019-20, Henry Clay High School), and Brandon McManus (2018-19, Trinity 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.