

**WAYNFLETE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Myles Culley** of **Waynflete School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Culley is the first Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Waynflete 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 Culley as Maine'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, Culley 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, 160-pound senior forward led the Flyers to a 16-1-1 record and the Class C state championship this past season. Culley tied a state record with 52 goals, including a state title game record five in a 6-1 win over Fort Kent High. He also added 15 assists on the year. The 2022 Portland Press Herald Player of the Year, he suffered a severe leg injury during a game with his club team in December, 2019, and did not return to the field until the fall of his senior year.

Culley has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through the Waynflete Active Community Engagement group. "Myles' season was almost unprecedented," said Mike Andreasen, head coach of Greely High School. "He was the most dominant player I have seen in many years. We tightly man-marked him and he still scored two goals. His goal-scoring numbers are just off the charts."

Culley has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will attend Colby College this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Culley joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Players of the Year Steve Fulton (2021-22, Yarmouth High School), Gus Ford (2020-21, Falmouth High School), and Bilal Hersi (2019-20 & 2018-19, Lewiston 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.

###