

**DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Kyle Pierson** of **Detroit Catholic Central High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Pierson is the second Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Detroit Catholic Central 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 Pierson as Michigan'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, Pierson 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-8, 145-pound senior forward scored 37 goals and passed for 21 assists this past season, leading the Shamrocks (20-2-3) to the Division I state semifinals. After playing exclusively for his club team until his senior year, Pierson was named the 2022 Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer. The younger brother of Ryan Pierson, the state's 2016-17 Gatorade Boys Soccer Player of the Year, he is ranked as the nation's No. 83 recruit in the Class of 2023 by PrepSoccer.com.

Pierson has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank, and he has donated his time with the Miracle League, a sporting community for children with intellectual and physical challenges, and as a youth soccer coach. "Kyle is the real deal," said Kevin Tuite, head coach of Detroit Jesuit High School. "He was effective all over the field. He made and continued to make runs—even when he knew he was not getting the ball—to create space for other players. He's a true pain to mark because he would consistently drag defenders out of position."

Pierson has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Pierson joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nick Cassidy (2021-22, Grand Rapids Christian High School), Roni Sylejmani (2020-21, Gull Lake High School), and Aidan O'Connor (2019-20 & 2018-19, Forest Hills Northern 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.