

**JUAN DIEGO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Hauroa Morgant** of **Juan Diego Catholic High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Morgant is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Juan Diego Catholic 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 Morgant as Utah'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, Morgant 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, 185-pound senior forward led the Soaring Eagle to a 17-1 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Morgant scored a state-record 45 goals and passed for five assists, netting the lone tally in Juan Diego Catholic High School's 1-0 win over Morgan High School in the state final. The captain of the Tahitian Under-17 Men's National team, Morgant played for the full Tahitian Men's National Team during qualifying play for the 2022 World Cup. He concluded his prep soccer career with 61 goals and six assists in 27 games.

Morgant has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Hauroa finds great scoring positions in the box," said Kelly Terrill, head coach of Judge Memorial High School. "If you give him an opportunity to get the ball from a service, he has great directional touch to put the ball on goal. He is a big player and a bit deceptive because he can also create his own shot."

Morgant has maintained a B average in the classroom since moving to Utah from Tahiti prior to his junior year. He will attend Salt Lake Community College, where he hopes to walk-on to the soccer team, beginning 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.

Morgant joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Players of the Year Trevor Walk (2021-22, Herriman High School), Austin Wallace (2020-21, Skyridge High School), Eli Nixon (2019-20, Layton High School), and Jack Terrill (2018-19, Judge Memorial Catholic 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.