

**COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Henry Bacon** of **Colchester High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Bacon is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Colchester 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 Bacon as Vermont'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, Bacon 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, 165-pound senior midfielder scored 11 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Lakers (12-3-2) to the Division I state championship game. The Burlington Free-Press Player of the Year, he is a two-time Vermont Coaches Association All-State selection.

A member of the Colchester High School Athletic Leadership Council, Bacon has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and a youth soccer coach. "Henry was athletically dominant as a center mid," said Dustin Hess, head coach of Mount Mansfield Union High School. "He was one of the best players at maintaining possession of the ball and could spring attacks with dynamic passing and vision. His defensive instincts and background make him excellent on that side of the ball as well."

Bacon has maintained an unweighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. He will play soccer as a postgraduate student at the Taft School in Connecticut 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.

Bacon joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sumner Nenninger (2021-22, South Burlington High School), Chance Rose (2020-21, Milton High School), Cullen Swett (2019-20, Champlain Valley Union High School), and Pablo Gonzalez Rotger (2018-19, St. Johnsbury Academy), 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).