

**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jack Hickox** of **South Anchorage High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Hickox is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Hickox as Alaska’s best high school boys soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Lyle Yorks (1987-88, E.O. Smith High School, Conn.), Alecko Eskandarian (1999-00, Bergen Catholic High School, N.J.) and Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.).

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound senior midfielder led the Wolverines to a 17-0-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Hickox scored 21 goals and passed for 15 assists, tallying the lone goal in South’s 1-0 win over West High School in the state semifinals. A two-time All-State Tournament selection, he was also a 2024 All-Cook Inlet Conference First Team honoree.

Hickox has volunteered locally with the Jordan Morris Foundation, and has donated his time as a peer tutor and youth soccer coach. “Jack Hickox is the most complete player in the state and, to me, the primary reason South was undefeated this season,” said Dan Rufner, head coach of Service High School. “He tackles well and controls the middle of the field. He doesn’t try to do too much with the ball, instead playing quick touches with excellent distribution, always looking to set up his teammates. When he does get the chance to score, he has a strong and accurate shot.”

Hickox has maintained a weighted 4.38 GPA in the classroom. He will attend San Diego State 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.

Hickox joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Players of the Year David Elliott (2022-23, Colony High School), Joseph Butzke (2021-22, Dimond High School), Hatcher Manning (2020-21, Service High School) and Vaughn Simpson (2019-20, West Valley High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.