

## **NOBLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 14, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Cole Thompson** of **Noblesville High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Thompson is the third Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Noblesville 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 Thompson as Indiana'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 6-foot-1, 165-pound senior goalkeeper led the Millers to an 18-0-5 record and a third straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Thompson conceded 12 goals and recorded 10 shutouts, including a 2-0 blanking of Cathedral High in the state title game. The Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, he saved 8 of 18 penalty shots on the season and was the winning goalie in three consecutive postseason shootouts leading up to the championship match.

Thompson completed an internship at the Mojo Up Sports Complex last fall, and he has volunteered locally with Fueled for School, a local food distribution initiative, as well as with Serve Noblesville. "Cole was crucial to Noblesville's incredible defense and championship this year," said David Stroup, head coach of Southport High School. "Saving nearly half of the penalties made Noblesville feel unstoppable. He's a good distributor and decent with his feet, which is pretty rare in high school keepers."

Thompson has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Oakland University in 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.

Thompson joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sam Divis (2022-23, Noblesville High School), Palmer Ault (2021-22, Noblesville High School), Zack Bowser (2020-21, Chesterton High School) and Chris Freeman (2019-20, Zionsville Community 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](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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).