

**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Preston Kipnusu** of **Valley High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Kipnusu is the eighth Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley 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 Kipnusu as Iowa’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-4, 203-pound senior forward led the Tigers to an 18-4 record and the Class 4A tournament round of eight this past season. Kipnusu scored 37 goals and passed for 17 assists, having a direct hand in 68 percent of Valley’s scoring this spring. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he was also a 2023 US Club Soccer National Cup All-Tournament Team honoree.

Kipnusu has volunteered locally on behalf of Meals of the Heartland. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer referee and instructor. “Preston can play a variety of positions as a forward or winger and can beat you in a multitude of ways,” said J.P. Graham, head coach at Washington High in Cedar Rapids. “He can take you on from out wide, post up in the middle of the pitch and lay it off to his teammates, or simply win the majority of balls played in the box. Although he’s looking to score, his assist total shows that he is trying to get the rest of the offense involved—and succeeding.”

Kipnusu has maintained a 3.2 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Drake 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.

Kipnusu joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jackson Kirsch (2022-23, Marion High School), Lucas Newhard (2021-22, Ankeny High School), CJ Coppola (2020-21, Waukee High School) and Alan Kim (2019-20, Kennedy 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.