

MAIZE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Vitor Geromel** of **Maize South High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Geromel is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Maize South 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 Geromel as Kansas’ 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-3, 185-pound senior forward scored a state single-season record 56 goals and passed for 11 assists, leading the Mavericks to a 21-0 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Geromel graduates having led Maize South High School to the program’s only two state championships, scoring in the 2023 final and netting two in a 3-1 semifinals win. A two-time First Team All-State selection and the 2023 Class 5A Player of the Year, he concluded his prep career as the state’s leading scorer (156 goals) and assist-maker (44). He was also named Best XI at the High School All-America Soccer Game.

Geromel has volunteered locally as part of a blood-donation drive and a seat belt awareness initiative. His school’s club president of Mu Alpha Theta, a national mathematics honor society, he has also donated his time on behalf of Bread for Life, the Kansas Humane Society and as a youth soccer coach. “I’ve had the opportunity to coach against Vitor in the last two Kansas State semifinals with everything on the line and in both matches he proved why he’s one of the top high school soccer players in state history.” said Craig Ewing, head coach at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

Geromel has maintained a 4.4 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Clemson 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.

Geromel joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nico Pendleton (2022-23, Mill Valley High School), Elyes Ellouz (2021-22, Olathe West High School), Alan Lopez (2020-21, Dodge City High School) and Jony Munoz (2019-20, Olathe West 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.