

**THE WILLOW SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Sebastian Salm** of **The Willow School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Salm is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Willow 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 Salm as Louisiana’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, 150-pound senior central midfielder led the Lions to a 23-0-4 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Salm scored seven goals and passed for 10 assists, logging four of those setups in the postseason. His influence and control during the state championship match earned him the Most Outstanding Player award. He has lifted The Willow School to three straight Division III state titles and was an All-State Defensive Most Valuable Player honoree in 2024.

Salm has volunteered locally with the Culture Air Nola, a food bank that helps distribute food to the hungry in the New Orleans community. He has also donated his time on behalf of Lafitte Trash-Clean-Up, a community beautification initiative. “Sebastian is a class player,” said Marcus Dyer, head coach at Dutchtown High. “He led his team with his work ethic and strong technical ability in the midfield. He has very good game awareness and positional understanding on both sides of the ball. This allowed him to make himself a piece of influence in most plays, but also to help direct his teammates with his communication and leadership.”

Salm has maintained a weighted 4.45 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Emory University in Atlanta and play soccer there 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.

Salm joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Max Cavana (2022-23, Catholic High School), Charlie Garrison (2021-22, University Laboratory School), Jourdan Schumacher (2020-21, Lusher Charter School) and Zayne Zezulka (2019-20, Dutchtown 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.