

**LOYOLA BLAKEFIELD SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Dan Klink** of **Loyola Blakefield School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Maryland Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Klink is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Loyola Blakefield 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 Klink as Maryland’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-3, 180-pound junior midfielder and forward led the Dons to a 14-0-4 record and the Maryland Independent Athletic Association A Conference tournament championship this past season. Klink scored eight goals and passed for eight assists, tallying twice in Loyola’s 3-1 win over John Carroll High in the tournament final. The Baltimore Sun All-Metro Player of the Year and a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection, he was the Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer State Player of the Year.

The founder and president of the Sports Analytics Club at Loyola Blakefield, Klink has participated in the Arrupe Leaders Summit, which promotes social justice. He has also volunteered locally with Beans and Bread and Francis X. Gallagher Services, while also donating his time with multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. “Dan’s size, speed, skill set and work-rate were exemplary,” said Jon Seal, head coach of the Gilman School. “He can win it in the air, was extremely dangerous on set pieces and his ball-striking is next-level. He truly had a special season.”

Klink has maintained a weighted 4.06 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2025.

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.

Klink joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Soccer Players of the Year Ben Madore (2022-23, Calvert Hall College High School), Jacob Murrell (2021-22, McDonogh School), Tyquan Stroud (2020-21, Mount Saint Joseph High School) and Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College 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.