BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Aiden Boudro** of **Bay High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Boudro is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bay 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 Boudro as Mississippi'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, 175-pound junior forward led the Tigers to a 23-1-2 record and a second-straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Boudro scored 17 goals and passed for eight assists. A two-time Sun Herald All-Coast First Team selection, he concluded his junior year with 60 goals and 31 assists in his prep soccer career.

Boudro has volunteered locally as a youth soccer referee and coach. "Aiden is an exceptionally talented player," said Zach Villarrubia, head coach of Saint Stanislaus. "He is usually levels above any other player on the high school field. He's the reason that Bay [High School] is as successful as they are."

Boudro has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Davidson College (N.C.) 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.

Boudro joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Players of the Year Connor Dunnigan (2022-23, St. Andrew's Episcopal School), Luke Hopkins (2021-22, Clinton High School), Emery Thigpen (2020-21, Jackson Academy) and Heath Flathau (2019-20, Sacred Heart Catholic 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.