

**ST. BENEDICT'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Ransford Gyan of St. Benedict's Preparatory School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Gyan is the eighth Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Benedict's Preparatory 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 Gyan as New Jersey'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 returning Gatorade National Player of the Year, the 5-foot-4, 135-pound senior midfielder scored 28 goals and passed for 14 assists this past season, leading the Gray Bees (15-1) to the state prep tournament title game. Also the state's two-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Gyan scored at least one goal in all 16 of St. Benedict's games. A three-time First Team All-New Jersey Prep selection, he's ranked as the nation's No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepSoccer.com and led his team to a pair of state championships in a Gray Bees' uniform, including the 2023 Prep Soccer Fab 50 national title. In 2022, he won the United States Youth Soccer Association National Championship Tournament Gold Boot Award.

Gyan has volunteered on behalf of Newark's St. Mary's Parish Toussaint Food Parish since 2020 and has donated his time as a volunteer coach for five- and six-year-old players in association with the CSA Newark Roots Program since 2019. He has also served as a coach for the Gray Bees Soccer Camp three years running. On Saturdays, he has assisted the monks at Newark Abbey distributing food to the homeless. "Ransford Gyan is one of the most talented players to emerge from the high school soccer arena in the past decade," said J.R. Eskilson, National Analyst for PrepSoccer.com. "A wizard with the ball at his feet, Gyan has that rare ability to create chances for his team in the blink of an eye. Lightning quick and sublimely skillful, he does things on a soccer pitch comparable to what you see at the professional level. Playing with a target on his back all season as the reigning Gatorade Boys Soccer National Player of the Year, Gyan raised his game and found multiple ways to help his team win even though he was regularly surrounded by a handful of defenders. The left-footed maestro delivered a masterpiece performance in his final high school season."

Gyan has maintained a 3.68 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.

Three-time winner Gyan joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Micaah Garnette (2020-21, Gill St. Bernard's School) and Brendan McSorley (2019-20, Delbarton 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.

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