

**MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Brayden Oswalt** of **Minot High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Oswalt is the second Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Minot 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 Oswalt as North Dakota’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 5-foot-8, 140-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 19 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Magicians (12-2-6) to the Class A state semifinals. The state’s Senior Athlete of the Year, Oswalt was a First Team All-State selection as a senior and a Second Team All-State honoree as a junior. He concluded his prep soccer career with 39 goals and 26 assists.

Oswalt has volunteered locally assembling Christmas baskets for people in need, and he has donated his time as a youth soccer coach. “What truly sets Brayden apart is his ability to make a significant impact on the game,” said Ricardo Pierre-Louis, head coach of Bismarck High School. “Whether it’s through scoring crucial goals, providing key assists or rallying his team, Brayden consistently rose to the occasion.”

Oswalt has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Colorado Colorado Springs 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.

Oswalt joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Patrick Lawrence (2022-23, Davies High School), Gannon Brooks (2021-22, Red River High School), Nikko Helderop (2020-21, Century High School) and Mason Stotz (2019-20, Bismarck 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.