

**SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Hammad Ali** of **South Burlington High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Ali is the seventh Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Ali as Vermont’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-10, 150-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 11 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Rebels (14-3) to the Division I state championship game. The Burlington Free-Press Player of the Year, Ali is a two-time Vermont Coaches Association First Team All-State selection. He was also a 2023 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree.

Ali earned first place for Biomedical Sciences at the Vermont STEM Fair as a junior. A leader of his school’s Community Service Club, he has volunteered locally as a Red Cross Donor Ambassador and as a youth soccer coach. “Hammad was the class of the league and the state,” said Dustin Hess, head coach of Mount Mansfield Union High School. “Both times we played South he eventually took over the game. When everyone was at their best, he was better. Hammad provided the spark to elevate his team.”

Ali has maintained an unweighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Vermont 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.

Ali joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Henry Bacon (2022-23, Colchester High School), Sumner Nenninger (2021-22, South Burlington High School), Chance Rose (2020-21, Milton High School) and Cullen Swett (2019-20, Champlain Valley Union 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.