

GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Michael Luechauer** of **George Washington High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Luechauer is the fifth Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from George Washington 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 Luechauer as West Virginia'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-11, 160-pound senior forward led the Patriots to a 20-2-1 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Luechauer scored 36 goals and passed for 12 assists, netting the lone tally in George Washington's 1-0 win over Hurricane High School in the state final. A First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 66 goals and 19 assists.

A member of the George Washington High School student council, Luechauer has volunteered locally at a senior center and as a youth soccer coach. He has also donated his time as a peer math and psychology tutor. "Michael Luechauer is the best player in West Virginia," said Steve Laraba, head coach of Woodrow Wilson High School. "He was the leader on a state championship team and was a threat to score every time he got the ball."

Luechauer has maintained a weighted 4.41 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of California San Diego 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.

Luechauer joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Adam Seams (2022-23, Greenbrier East High School), Nick Ihnat (2021-22, George Washington High School), Jonas Branch (2020-21, Fairmont Senior High School) and Khori Miles (2019-20, Robert C. Byrd 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.