

## **SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 12, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Camren Thompson** of **Southside High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Thompson as Alabama's best high school boys soccer player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, M.D.) and Ransford Gyan (2022-23 & 2023-24, St. Benedict's Preparatory School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-4, 180-pound senior forward led the Panthers to a 22-5-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Thompson scored 47 goals and passed for nine assists, netting four consecutive postseason hat tricks leading into the championship game, after which he was named Tournament MVP. A three-time First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 128 goals and 31 assists.

The Student of the Year at Southside High School as both a junior and senior, Thompson has volunteered locally making backpacks for children in need and on behalf of Toys for Tots. He has also donated his time to community-beautification projects and the Special Olympics. "Cam was the whole offense for the most part for Southside," said Steve Cornelius, former head coach of Fort Payne High School. "He is a strong, powerful force to reckon with on the field."

Thompson has maintained a weighted 4.56 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of Alabama at Birmingham this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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