

## **RUSSELLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 **Cade Shamblen** of **Russellville High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Shamblen as Arkansas' 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 5-foot-10, 145-pound senior defensive center midfielder led the Cyclones to a 22-0-1 record and a fourth-straight Class 5A state championship this past season. Shamblen scored 11 goals and passed for three assists while also anchoring a defense that allowed just six goals and posted 17 shutouts, including a clean sheet in all four of Russellville's postseason victories. He was a Class 5A First Team All-State and All-Tournament selection.

A member of his school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Shamblen has volunteered locally for Manna House, an organization that provides food for people in need. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Cade is Russellville's player that makes everything click," said Craig Moses, head coach of Siloam Springs High School. "He played midfield for them, organized the defense and was always involved in the attack. He was a coach on the field for them."

Shamblen has maintained a weighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of Central Arkansas 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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