

GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 12, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ivan Hughes** of **Gonzaga College High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade District of Columbia 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 Hughes as District of Columbia'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 5-foot-11, 150-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Eagles to a 22-0-2 record and both the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference and the DCSAA tournament championship this past season. Hughes scored 21 goals and passed for eight assists. The WCAC and Washington Post All-Met Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 32 goals and 15 assists.

A saxophonist in the Gonzaga Honors Symphonic band, Hughes has participated in a service-mission trip to Ecuador. He has also volunteered locally at an eldercare facility in addition to donating his time at the McKenna Center, a homeless shelter for men. "Ivan was the best player we saw all year," said Chris Jennings, head coach of Bishop O'Connell High School. "His movement and technical ability were top-drawer. He carried the attacking load and was really, really good for them."

Hughes has maintained a weighted 4.32 GPA in the classroom. Hughes has been accepted to Emory University (Ga.), where he intends to play soccer, but has deferred enrollment in order to spend a year in Europe participating in tryouts for professional soccer club academies.

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 or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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