

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Rylan McPherson** of **Rocky Mountain High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Idaho 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 McPherson as Idaho'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-10, 140-pound senior forward scored 23 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Grizzlies (17-2-2) to the Class 6A state championship game. McPherson was the 2023 Southern Idaho Conference and Idaho Statesman Class 5A Player of the Year. He was also a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection.

McPherson has volunteered locally as a community support worker, offering social and emotional support to autistic youth. He has also donated his time as a peer tutor for students with intellectual challenges at Rocky Mountain High School and as a youth soccer coach. "Rylan McPherson is a player who changes the dynamic of any team he's on," said Alex Saldana, head coach of Mountain View High School. "He's someone I would look at if I were starting up a program and looking to build a team around a single player."

McPherson has maintained a 3.03 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Northwest Nazarene University 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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