

NAPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Jaxon Stokes** of **Naperville North High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Illinois 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 Stokes as Illinois' 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, 155-pound senior forward led the Huskies to a 20-2-1 record and the Dupage Valley Conference title this past season. Stokes scored 19 goals and passed for 6 assists in his final campaign, concluding his prep career as the third-leading scorer in school history with 61 goals. The Illinois High School Coaches Association's Player of the Year, he was also a 2024 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

Stokes has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children, an organization seeking to end malnutrition and hunger for kids around the world. He has also donated his time as part of Best Buddies Day, where he's been paired with and built friendships with physically or intellectually challenged children. "If I'm building a team around a player, I'm taking Jaxon," said Josh Robinson, head coach of Metea Valley High School. "He's a player that cannot be shut down as he is so driven, but also commands so much attention. He did it to my team this year, and he is full of special moments. He's not athletically overwhelming, but he's one of the smarter players I've seen in how he uses his body to shield and create space."

Stokes has maintained a weighted 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Belmont 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 or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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