

VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 **Alexander Poitan-Hernandez** of **Valley High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Iowa 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 Poitan-Hernandez as Iowa'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-7, 145-pound junior keeper led the Tigers (21-1) to the Class 4A state title this past season. Poitan-Hernandez recorded 14 shutouts in 19 games and surrendered five goals all year for a 0.26 goals-against average. He posted five clean sheets in the postseason and concluded his junior year with an 89.9 save percentage. A 2025 All-Tournament and All-State selection, he twice led his club team FC United to the USYS National final four.

Poitan-Hernandez is deeply committed to his church community, participating in services, ministry and outreach programs. He has also donated his time on behalf of Meals of the Heartland in addition to serving as a youth soccer camp counselor. "Alex possesses a unique quality that is often rare among young people today: His actions speak louder than his words," said Valley High School head coach Aziz Haffar. "He is soft-spoken, yet very determined. He's always giving that little bit of extra effort in everything he does. He's well-respected, responsible, works exceptionally hard and has an excellent rapport with all his teammates and the coaching staff. His drive and abilities are truly an asset."

Poitan-Hernandez has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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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