BLUE VALLEY SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Crew Alvarez** of **Blue Valley Southwest High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kansas 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 Alvarez as Kansas' 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 6-foot-5, 195-pound senior forward led the Timberwolves (21-0) to the Class 5A state title and the No. 2 spot in the United Soccer Coaches Fall 2024 National Rankings this past season. Alvarez scored 38 goals and passed for 19 assists, averaging 2.7 points per game. Ranked as the Heartland Region's No. 26 prospect by Top Drawer Soccer, he is a two-time USC All-American and played for the West squad in last fall's High School All-American Game. He concluded his prep soccer career with a school-record 89 goals.

Alvarez has volunteered extensively on behalf of local youth basketball and soccer initiatives, including an eightweek summer agility camp. "Crew leaves our program as the most decorated player in school history," said Blue Valley Southwest High School head coach Erik Jones. "He's not only an exceptional soccer player, he's a great teammate and a leader. He does all the small things you'd expect from a great player. He works extremely hard during training and holds his teammates accountable. He's the first to celebrate others' success and is humble with his own. On the field, he's a true goal-scorer. He's very composed in and around the box and is also very crafty. He can create his own shot and set others up for success."

Alvarez has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Drake University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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