

HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Marco Messerli** of **Henry Clay High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kentucky 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 Messerli as Kentucky'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 6-foot-0, 165-pound senior forward led the Blue Devils to a 21-4-2 record and the state championship this past season. Messerli scored 20 goals and passed for 19 assists, netting the game-winner as Henry Clay beat Louisville Collegiate, 6-1, in the state title match. The Kentucky Offensive Player of the Year, he was also a 2024 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

Messerli has volunteered locally on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House, an organization that houses families with children who are suffering from illness or injury. He has also donated his time as a buddy for physically and/or intellectually challenged children. "What separated Marco from the others were his aggressiveness, work rate and energy," said Chris Grimm, head coach of Lafayette High School. "He covered a ton of ground defensively as an attacking player and constantly put opponents under pressure to create turnovers. He attacked both with the ball at his feet and off the ball with his movement. His motor and drive made it so opposing teams rarely had a moment to catch their breath."

Messerli has maintained a 4.76 weighted GPA in the classroom. He will attend Northwestern 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](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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