## MILTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Josh Partal** of **Milton Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Massachusetts 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 Partal as Massachusetts' 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-1, 175-pound senior midfielder scored seven goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (18-2-2) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament championship game. The Independent School League Player of the Year, Partal was a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection and participated in the High School All-American Game in December. He is ranked as the nation's No. 56 recruit in the Class of 2025 by PrepSoccer.com.

Partal is a member of the Milton Academy Science Olympiad team and co-head of the MicroFinance Club. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Josh just controls the game from minute one to minute 90," said Joe Campbell, head coach of Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School. "He never plays a bad pass and is silky smooth on the ball. His game awareness is uncanny for such a young player."

Partal has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Stanford 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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