LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Otto Bourne** of **Lebanon High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Hampshire 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 Bourne as New Hampshire'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-1, 180-pound senior midfielder scored seven goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Raiders (9-4-5) to the Division II state semifinals. Bourne was the Division II Player of the Year and a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree. A three-time First All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 24 goals and 24 assists.

A student ambassador at Lebanon High School, Bourne has volunteered locally as a translator and liaison for an immigrant student from Venezuela who spoke no English. He has also donated his time with The Pulsera Project, a non-profit organization that connects Central-American students throughout the United States. "Otto is a sensational player," said Josh Smith, head coach of Bow High School. "He can dribble as well as anyone, pick out any pass and hit a shot from just about anywhere. You can't really stop him. You just hope to slow him down."

A National Merit Scholar semifinalist, Bourne has maintained a 4.32 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Colgate 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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