

ST. BENEDICT'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Gianni Rosario** of **St. Benedict's Preparatory School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Jersey 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 Rosario as New Jersey'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-2, 178-pound senior defender led the Gray Bees to a 20-0 record and the state Non-Public A Division state championship this past season. Rosario anchored a defense that allowed just seven goals and posted 15 shutouts, including four clean sheets in the postseason. A United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree and the New Jersey SCAN Sectional Player of the Year, he also contributed nine goals and three assists.

Rosario has volunteered locally at preschool and has donated his time at the St. Benedict's Preparatory School food bank and as a youth soccer coach. "The combination of Gianni's size and speed makes him stand out as a man amongst boys," said Jim Wandling, head coach of St. Benedict's Preparatory School. "Gianni is virtually unbeatable in 1-on-1 situations due to his size, natural athletic ability and his ability to read the game."

Rosario has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at North Carolina State 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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