MILLBROOK SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Francis Bonsu** of **Millbrook School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New York 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 Bonsu as New York'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 5-foot-9, 137-pound senior forward and midfielder led the Mustangs to a 9-7-1 record this past season, scoring 27 goals in 17 games. A three-time All-New England Prep School Athletic Council Class C selection, Bonsu participated in the High School All-American Game in December. Ranked as the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2025 by PrepSoccer.com, he concluded his three-year prep career at Millbrook School with 101 goals.

An exchange student from the Right to Dream Academy in Ghana, Bonsu has volunteered locally in the Millbrook School mailroom, and he has also donated his time to the Trevor-Lovejoy Zoo caring for the animals and their facilities. "With a flick of the ball or a viciously curling shot off his boot, Francis consistently created moments of magic on the field, neutralizing what opposing teams had prepared for him through his rare combination of technical skill, pace and athleticism," said Mario Williams, head coach of the Hotchkiss School. "He was mercurial throughout the year, delivering flashes of brilliance that drew admiration from everyone in attendance and reliably producing something special out of nothing."

Bonsu has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at UCLA 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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