

## HOLLY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Sean O'Laughlin** of **Holly Springs High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Carolina 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 O'Laughlin as North Carolina'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, 165-pound senior forward led the Golden Hawks (22-2-1) to the fourth round of the Class 4A state tournament this past season. O'Laughlin finished with 41 goals, averaging 1.6 goals per game, and added 10 assists to earn 4A All-State honors. He was also a United Soccer Coaches Association All-American selection.

A member of the Holly Springs High School student leadership group, O'Laughlin has volunteered locally as a coach at youth soccer clinics. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church ministry youth group. "Sean constantly had his imprint on the game as a senior," said Kelsei Croal, head coach at Rolesville High School. "When we played Holly Springs, we took a very early 1-0 lead and it was at that moment that Sean began to take over the game. He was constantly causing havoc."

O'Laughlin has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Erskine College (S.C.) 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

###