

LA SALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Vance Sheffield** of **La Salle Catholic College Preparatory** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Oregon 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 Sheffield as Oregon'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-0, 175-pound senior forward led the Falcons to a 12-5-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Sheffield scored 29 goals and passed for 10 assists, drawing two penalty shots as La Salle Catholic College Preparatory beat Summit High School, 2-1, in the state title game. Sheffield concluded his prep career as the second-leading goal-scorer in state history. A two-time Oregon High School Coaches Association Player of the Year, he was also Oregon's lone boys selection to the 2024 United Soccer Coaches All-American squad.

Sheffield has volunteered locally with the Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA), an organization that aims to improve the quality of life for people who suffer from blindness. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer camp counselor and instructor. "Vance is one of those special attacking players that has a knack for finding the back of the net—he has the DNA of a goal-scorer," said Ian Reschke, Wilsonville High School head coach. "Since he was a freshman, he has always been a threat in and around the 18-yard box. Even if he isn't having his best game or if you feel like you have him contained for 99 percent of the match, he has a way of creating an opportunity for his teammates or himself out of nowhere in that other one percent. If you give him any opportunity on goal, more often than not, he will take advantage of it."

Sheffield has maintained a weighted 3.62 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Northern Illinois 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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