

WALNUT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Mason Kutch** of **Walnut Grove High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Texas 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 Kutch as Texas' 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, 145-pound junior midfielder led the Wildcats to a 25-0-2 record and the Conference 5A, Division 1 state championship this past season. Kutch scored 37 goals and passed for 21 assists. He fractured his arm late in regulation during the state final, but returned to the field to pick up the assist on the game-winning goal in overtime. The Dallas Morning News Player of the Year and the Star Local Media MVP, he was a 2024 United Soccer Coaches Winter-Spring High School All-South Region selection.

Kutch has volunteered locally with Powered to Move, an organization that helps people with intellectual and physical disabilities stay active. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and to Chefs to Shelters, which provides food for people in need. "How good was Mason this season? He was awesome," said CJ Shelton, head coach of McKinney North High School. "He didn't just score against easily beatable teams; he showed up in every game against all levels of opponents. If you gave him time and space, he was going to punish you, whether with a perfectly timed pass or an expertly placed shot."

Kutch has maintained a weighted 4.25 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer at DePaul University (IL) beginning in the fall of 2026.

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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