

AMERICAN FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Lewis Knecht** of **American Fork High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Utah 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 Knecht as Utah'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, 170-pound senior forward led the Cavemen to a 14-4 record and a second straight Class 6A state championship this past season. Knecht scored 24 goals and passed for 13 assists, netting the lone score in American Fork High School's 1-0 win over Bingham High School in the state final. A two-time Deseret News Mr. Soccer winner, he was the 2025 Class 6A Offensive Most Valuable Player and concluded his prep soccer career with 72 goals and 39 assists.

Knecht has volunteered locally at Tabitha's Way, a food pantry in Pleasant Grove, and on behalf of the Provo Food and Care Coalition. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Lewis finds solutions on the pitch rather than dwelling on problems or obstacles," Casey Waldron, head coach of American Fork High School. "On several occasions, he has put our team on his back and carried us to victory."

Knecht has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Utah Valley 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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