

COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Demunga Alfani** of **Colchester High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Vermont 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 Alfani as Vermont'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, 160 pound senior defender and forward led the Champs (7-11) all the way to the Division 1 state title game this past season. Alfani scored 11 goals and passed for 6 assists, scoring 4 and two, respectively, in the postseason. He played multiple positions on the year, moving between center back, outside back and wing. Alfani was directly involved in 89 percent of his team's goals last fall. Also the Free Press Journal Player of the Year, he was Vermont's sole boys representative on the 2024 United Soccer Coaches All-American squad.

Alfani has volunteered locally on behalf of Colchester Parks and Recreation Department Camp as a counselor and youth soccer coach. He has also participated in multiple community service initiatives in association with his club soccer team. "What makes Demunga special is his speed, his quickness and his ability to take advantage of very small spaces," said Patrick Zilkha, head coach of Burr and Burton Academy. "He also seemed willing to play almost any position. Colchester High School's record didn't reflect their ability because they were losing many games by just one goal to quality opponents while Demunga was playing all over the field. It's not a coincidence that they made it to the championship game."

Alfani has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Saint Michael's College 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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