

**COLONY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Noah Krozel of Colony High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Krozel is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Colony High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Krozel as Alaska's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Krozel joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lallas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-11, 165-pound junior midfielder scored 22 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Knights (17-3-1) to the Division 1 state finals. Krozel is a two-time First Team All-Conference selection.

A devoted member of his church community, Krozel has served as a peer geometry tutor and has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank. "Krozel is very technical, but he's also physically strong and he tackles like a center back," said Mike Montgomery, head coach at South Anchorage High. "He's level-headed on the field and he had a lot of critical goals for that team this year."

Krozel has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Krozel joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Bubacar Touray (2016-17, West Anchorage High School), Talon Stanley (2015-16, South Anchorage High School), Jack Sedor (2014-15 & 2013-14, Dimond High School), Jackson Lehnhart (2012-13, Juneau-Douglas High School), Michael Sedor (2011-12, Dimond High School), Kirby Hutto (2010-11, South Anchorage High School), Jon Hall (2009-10, South Anchorage), Blaine Carver (2008-09, Soldotna High School), Colin Flynn (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), and Spencer Augustin (2006-07, South) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Krozel will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

###