

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Michael Suski of Loomis Chaffee School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Suski is the second Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Loomis Chaffee 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 Suski as Connecticut'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, Suski joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (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-9, 160-pound junior forward led the Pelicans to a 19-3 record and the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament championship this past season. Suski scored 40 goals and passed for 12 assists, tallying the lone goal in Loomis' 1-0 win over Berkshire School in the tournament final. The New England Soccer Journal's Prep Offensive Player of the Year, he concluded his junior year as the owner of the school career goals record (60) to go with 34 assists.

Suski has volunteered locally at a senior center and as a youth soccer coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of his church. "Michael is the type of player that doesn't need much to do a lot," said Charlie Fuentes, head coach of Choate Rosemary Hall. "He is nifty in tight spaces and has tremendous dribbling ability. He seems like the type of player you can certainly count on when you need a goal."

Suski has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Boston College beginning in the fall of 2019.

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.

Suski joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Players of the Year Umar Farouk Osman (2016-17, The Hotchkiss School), Ema Twumasi (2015-16, Kent School), Mickey Watson (2014-15, South Kent School), Matheus Souza (2013-14, Conrad High School), Isaac Normesinu (2012-13, Hotchkiss School), Zach Zurita (2011-12, Bunnell High School), Kevin Michalak (2010-11, Farmington High School), Kofi Agyapong (2009-10, St. Luke's School), Colin Bradley (2008-09, Avon Old Farms School), Pat Boucher (2007-08, Cromwell), and Ryan Kinne (2006-07, Naugatuck) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Suski 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.

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