

FLEMING ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Reed Davis of Fleming Island High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Fleming Island 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 Davis as Florida'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, Davis 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior forward scored 52 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Golden Eagles (17-1-3) to the District 4-4A Tournament quarterfinals. The first ever back-to-back winner of the Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Soccer award, he concluded his prep soccer career with 132 goals and 48 assists.

Davis has volunteered locally with South in the City, a community-outreach program, and as a youth soccer coach and referee. "I see a lot of players and I can honestly say that Reed has it all," said Matt Hollyoak, head coach of Oakleaf High and a regional scout for U.S. Soccer. "Reed is incredible in front of goal. His movement is very dynamic and deceiving, making him hard to track. He has the ability to put the game on his back."

A member of the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) honors program, Davis has maintained a weighted 4.24 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Jacksonville 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 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.

Two-time winner Davis joins Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Players of the Year Esteban Calvo (2015-16, Montverde Academy), Trey Langlois (2014-15, Bishop Kenny High School), Diego Campos (2013-14, Montverde Academy), Thales Moreno (2012-13, Montverde Academy), Brian James (2011-12, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Verner Valimaa (2010-11, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Max Rockwell (2009-10, JW Mitchell), Hasani Sinclair (2008-09, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Shawn Barry (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Eugene Starikov (2006-07, Palm Harbor University) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Davis 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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