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**REITZ MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Andrew Cross of Reitz Memorial High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Cross is the sixth Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Reitz Memorial 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 Cross as Indiana'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, Cross 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 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior forward led the Tigers to a 20-2-1 record and a second-straight Class 2A state championship this past season. Cross scored 24 goals and passed for 13 assists, tallying both goals in a 2-0 win over Concordia Lutheran High in the state final. The Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 95 goals and 45 assists.

A member of the Reitz Memorial Chess Club, Cross has volunteered locally with SNOWFLAKE, a school mentoring and drug-prevention group, and as a youth soccer coach. "We knew if we shut Andrew down, we had a chance. Unfortunately, we could not do that," said Kevin Macke, head coach of Concordia Lutheran High. "He reads the game very well as a forward and his work ethic up top leads to turnovers by the back line."

Cross has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Dayton beginning 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 Cross joins Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Andreas Roslender (2015-16, Carmel High School), Jordan Kleyn (2014-15, Avon High School), Michael Riedford (2013-14, Reitz Memorial High School), Mike Galullo (2012-13, North Central High School), Femi Hollinger-Janzen (2011-12, Bethany Christian High School), Eriq Zavaleta (2010-11, Westfield High School), A.J. Corrado (2009-10, Zionsville Community High School), Harrison Petts (2008-09, Zionsville Community), Mitch Day (2007-08, Memorial High School), and Robby Lynch (2006-07, Carmel High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Cross 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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