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**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Isaac Woods of Lincoln High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Woods is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Woods as South Dakota'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, Woods 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 6-foot, 158-pound senior forward led the Patriots to a 12-1-2 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Woods scored 10 goals and passed for 10 assists, including two goals and one assist in Lincoln's 3-1 win over Aberdeen Central in the state final. A First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 23 goals and 17 assists.

A member of the Lincoln High student council, Woods has volunteered locally as a middle-school math tutor and youth soccer coach. "Isaac Woods is fast, athletic and good with the ball," said Chris Limmer, head coach of Brandon Valley High. "He was very dangerous as an attacking player."

Woods has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he will play soccer, 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.

Woods joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Marcus Hluchy (2016-17 & 2015-16, Aberdeen Central High School), and Lee Wynja (2014-15 & 2013-14, Sioux Falls Christian High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Woods 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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