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**ELSIK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jose Umana of Elsik High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Umana is the second Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Elsik 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 Umana as Texas' 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, Umana 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-8, 160-pound senior defender and midfielder led the Rams to a 22-0-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Umana scored four goals and passed for nine assists, including the lone goal in Elsik's 1-0 win over Reagan High in the state final. He also anchored a defense that earned a title-game shutout despite playing a man down for the final 28 minutes.

Umana has volunteered locally with elementary school literacy outreach programs and as a youth soccer coach. "Elsik was able to commit more players forward into the attack because they confidently left Jose back to play 1-v-1 against any attacker the other team might have," said Brandon Childers, head coach of Pearland Dawson High. "Jose was an amazing contributor to the Elsik team this year."

Umana has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Western Texas College 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.

Umana joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jose Ortiz (2016-17, Sam Houston High School), Harris Partain (2015-16, Wakeland High School), Isidro Martinez (2014-15, Rivera High School), Chris Madden (2013-14, Coppell High School), Kayode George (2012-13, Alief Elsik High School), Tony Santibanez (2011-12, Plano Senior High School), Aaron Simmons (2010-11, Mansfield High School), Zach Barnes (2009-10, Marcus High School), Dillon Powers (2008-09, Plano Senior High School), Sam Garza (2007-08, Marcus High School), and Corben Bone (2006-07, Plano High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Umana 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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