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**HERRIMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Carter Johnson of Herriman High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Herriman 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 Johnson as Utah'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, Johnson 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-11, 165-pound senior midfielder scored 21 goals and passed for 22 assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (19-0-1) to the Class 6A state finals. Johnson is a two-time First Team All-State and All-Region selection.

Also a basketball standout, Johnson helped found his school's Hope Walk to promote suicide awareness, and has volunteered on behalf of For the Warmth of Children, which provides clothing to children in need. "Carter Johnson is just outstanding," said Souli Phongsavath, head coach of Davis High. "He's got size and speed and he's very technical. He dominates the middle of the field. You can try to game-plan for him, but it's impossible to stay in front of him."

Johnson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Utah Valley 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Players of the Year Carlos Becerra (2016-17, Copper Hills High School), Aidan Dayton (2015-16, Maple Mountain High School), Christian Bain (2014-15, Alta High School), Lucas Cawley (2013-14, Viewmont High School), Matthew Coffey (2012-13, Brighton High School), Taylor Fankhauser (2011-12, Brighton High School), Derek Boggs (2010-11, Alta High School), Thomas Loomis (2009-10, Brighton High School), James Rogers (2008-09, Highland High School), Jake Hustedt (2007-08, Jordan High School), and Jake Cook (2006-07, East High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Johnson 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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