

**AIR ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Thad Dewing of Air Academy High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Dewing is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Air Academy 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 Dewing as Colorado'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, Dewing joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-11, 170-pound junior forward led the Kadets to an 18-1-1 record and a second-straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Dewing tallied 27 goals and eight assists, including one of each in a 2-1 win over Denver North High in the state title game. The Class 4A State Player of the Year, Dewing is a two-time First Team All-Conference selection. He concluded his junior year with 51 goals and 14 assists in his prep soccer career.

A member of the leadership team for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in his area, Dewing has volunteered locally as a youth soccer and basketball coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community-service initiatives through his church youth group. "Thad had a great year; he's a tremendous player," said Brian Jewell, head coach of Cheyenne Mountain High. "His speed and quickness make him really difficult to defend. He also holds the ball really well to allow the attack to build up around him."

Dewing has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Dewing joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Players of the Year Michael Mooney (2017-18, Broomfield High School), Tajon Buchanan (2016-17, Legacy High School), Porter Milner (2015-16, Broomfield High School), Quinn Liebmann (2014-15, Boulder High School) and David Meyer (2013-14, Pine Creek High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Dewing also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

###