

NAPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Colin Iverson of Naperville North High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Iverson is the sixth Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Naperville North 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 Iverson as Illinois'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, Iverson 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 6-foot-4, 195-pound senior defender led the Huskies to a 26-0 record and a second-straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Iverson tallied 18 goals and eight assists including the lone score in North's 1-0 overtime win over Lake Park High in the state title game. Iverson also anchored a defense that allowed five goals all season and just one in seven postseason matches. The Chicagoland Soccer State Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 45 goals and 21 assists.

Iverson has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and on behalf of Naperville's special-education community. "Colin was a massive difference-maker on a team that had amazing success," said Sean Wesley, head coach of Benet Academy.

Iverson has maintained a weighted 4.16 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Bowling Green 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. 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.

Iverson joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Players of the Year Tommy Welch (2017-18, Naperville North High School), Chris Sullivan (2016-17, Naperville North High School), Ty Seager (2015-16 & 2014-15, Wheaton Academy) and Mike Catalano (2013-14, Lake Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Iverson 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.