

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Brandon McManus of Trinity High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. McManus is the seventh Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity 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 McManus as Kentucky'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, McManus 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, 165-pound senior forward scored 31 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Shamrocks (18-1) to the Seventh Region tournament quarterfinals. The Kentucky Soccer Coaches Association's Offensive Player of the Year, McManus participated in the High School All-American Game in Orlando. He scored in 18 of Trinity's 19 games and concluded his prep soccer career with 74 goals and 27 assists.

McManus has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee, and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Brandon is the most driven player that I have ever coached," said Dale Helfrich, head coach of Trinity High School. "He is big, fast, good in the air, can shoot and score with either foot and is the most competitive player in any game."

McManus has maintained a weighted 4.30 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

McManus joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jansen Wilson (2017-18, Elizabethtown High School), Haji Abdikadir (2016-17, Louisville Collegiate School), Aime Mabika (2015-16, Henry Clay High School) and Sam Stockton (2014-15 & 2013-14, Trinity High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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