

BERKSHIRE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Jacob Shaffelburg of Berkshire School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Shaffelburg is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Berkshire 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 Shaffelburg as Massachusetts'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, Shaffelburg 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior forward led the Bears to a 19-0 record and the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A tournament championship this past season. Shaffelburg tallied 16 goals and 14 assists, including a score in Berkshire's 3-1 win over Worcester Academy in the NEPSAC tournament final. A member of the Canadian Under-20 Men's National Team, he concluded his prep soccer career with 62 goals and 49 assists.

Shaffelburg has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Jacob's pace is outstanding, making him difficult to defend," said Ozzie Parente, head coach of the Taft School. "He also has great technique with the ball at his feet and is extremely dangerous running at players. He can create for himself, but he's not selfish."

Shaffelburg maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a professional contract with Toronto FC of Major League Soccer.

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.

Two-time winner Shaffelburg joins Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake LaBranche (2016-17, Nauset Regional High School), Luca Levee (2015-16, Milton Academy), and Jack Harrison (2014-15 & 2013-14, Berkshire School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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