

WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Telvin Vah of West Fargo High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Vah is the fourth Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Fargo 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 Vah as North Dakota'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, Vah 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-7, 140-pound senior midfielder scored 10 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Packers (15-3-2) to the state championship. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Vah was also named state soccer Senior Athlete of the Year.

Vah has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement community, a food pantry and youth soccer programs. "Telvin Vah is an outstanding athlete who sacrificed his personal goals for his team's goals," said Amer Vates, head coach of Fargo South High. "He was a true captain and a true leader and it was a pleasure to watch him play."

Vah has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will attend nearby Concordia College this fall, where he will play 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.

Vah joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Tresor Mugwaneza (2017-18, Bismarck High School), Jake Reinholz (2016-17, Shanley High School), Bryce Nybo (2015-16, Bismarck High School), Jacob Richter (2014-15, Century High School) and Brad Kelly (2013-14, Century High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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