

THUNDER BASIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 **Isaac Howell of Thunder Basin High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Howell is the first Gatorade Wyoming Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Thunder Basin 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 Howell as Wyoming'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, Howell 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-10, 160-pound senior midfielder scored 12 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Bolts (16-1-1) to the Class 4A state final. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, Howell is also a three-time First Team All-Conference selection.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Howell has volunteered locally on behalf of a suicide-prevention initiative and a youth tennis program. "Howell is a very intelligent, very creative player," said Anne Moore, head coach at Laramie High. "He can not only score, but he also sets up his teammates by putting balls into space behind defenders."

Howell has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Bethel University in Minnesota 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.

Howell joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Soccer Players of the Year Patrick Marchal (2017-18, Green River High School), Ross Elliott (2016-17, Cheyenne Central High School), Cameron Campbell (2015-16, Laramie High School), and Tristan White (2014-15 & 2013-14, Riverton High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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