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**OLATHE WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Jony Munoz of Olathe West High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Munoz is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe West 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 Munoz as Kansas'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, Munoz joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 (2004-05, 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, 133-pound senior forward led the Owls to a 20-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Munoz tallied 36 goals and 19 assists, including a goal and assist in the team's 2-1 win over Blue Valley West High in the state final. Named the Most Valuable Player of the High School All-American Game in December, Munoz is a former member of the U.S. Soccer Under-16 Men's National Team. Ranked as the No. 135 recruit in the Class of 2020 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, he concluded his two-year prep soccer career with 53 goals and 28 assists.

Munoz participated in a service-mission trip to Mexico last summer to assist underprivileged youth. A guitar player in his church's worship band, he spearheaded a food drive that collected over 1,000 canned goods for the needy. Also a member of his school's OWLS student-leadership organization, he won the Olathe Noon Optimist Club's community leader award. "Jony is one of, if not the best, high school players I have ever had the chance to watch," said Chris Graham, head coach of Olathe Northwest High. "The kid can do things on the field with the ball that nobody else can do."

Munoz has maintained a weighted 3.97 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Liberty University in Virginia.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Munoz joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Aidan Bates (2018-19, Blue Valley Southwest High School), Noah Mabry (2017-18, Blue Valley West High School), Miguel Baca (2016-17, Dodge City High School), Lucas Bartlett (2015-16, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School), Austin Halsey (2014-15, Washburn Rural High School), and Steven Enna (2013-14, St. James Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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