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**CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Wyatt Millard of Cardinal Newman High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Millard is the third Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Newman 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 Millard as South Carolina'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, Millard joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-7, 155-pound senior midfielder led the Cardinals to an 18-1-1 record and the South Carolina Independent Schools Association Class AAA state championship this past season. Millard scored 16 goals, passed for 18 assists and lit it up in the postseason with nine goals in three games, including a hat trick in a 4-1 win over Hammond School in the title game.

Millard has volunteered locally with the Cardinal Newman Dance Marathon, which has raised money for Palmetto Health Children's Hospital in Columbia. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach. "Wyatt Millard was without a doubt the most dynamic player I had the opportunity to see this year," said Andrew Richardson, head coach of Heathwood Hall. "His pace, vision and ability to finish and distribute made him incredibly difficult to defend."

Millard has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the United States Naval Academy, where he will play soccer, beginning 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. 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.

Millard joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Players of the Year Marcelo Malpartida (2015-16, River Bluff High School), Michele Bottari (2014-15, J.L. Mann High School), Tyler Rider (2013-14, J.L. Mann High School), Koty Millard (2012-13, Cardinal Newman High School), Nestor Jaramillo (2011-12, Cardinal Newman High School), Robert Beebe (2010-11, Pinewood Preparatory School), Emmett Lunceford (2009-10, Irmo High School), Enzo Martinez (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, Northwestern High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Wyatt will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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