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NITRO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Seth Jordan of Nitro High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jordan is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Nitro 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 Jordan as West Virginia'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, Jordan 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 6-foot-1, 160-pound junior forward scored 52 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (19-2-3) to the Class AA-A state semifinals. The Class AA-A Player of the Year, Jordan is a two-time All-State selection and was named the Kanawha Valley Player of the Year.

Jordan has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and has collected soccer equipment to aid needy children in Ethiopia. "Jordan is a talented player and he's the kind of kid who never quits," said Niall Paul, head coach of Charleston Catholic High School. "He's got a great work rate and he plays with a lot of heart."

Jordan has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Jordan joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Addison Luck (2015-16 & 2014-15, Morgantown High School), Garrett Phillips (2013-14, George Washington High School), Felipe Thompson (2012-13, Hurricane High School), Tommy Trupo (2011-12 & 2010-11, Charleston Catholic High School), Zack Claudio (2009-10, George Washington High School), Jeremy Chambers (2008-09, Princeton High School), Nader Sawtarie (2007-08, The Linsly School), and Vinny Crumrine (2006-07, Wheeling Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Seth 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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