

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3651)

ARROWHEAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Zak Wegner of Arrowhead High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Wegner is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Arrowhead 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 Wegner as Wisconsin'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, Wegner 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-11, 158-pound senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Warhawks (19-3) to the sectional finals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Wegner was also the Classic 8 Conference Player of the Year and is a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

Wegner has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs. "As a player, he can do it all," said Aleks Vidakovich, head coach at Muskego High School. "He's dangerous in any position, whether it's up top or in the midfield. He finds a way to make an impact in every game."

Wegner has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Marquette University 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.

Wegner joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Players of the Year Alec Philippe (2015-16, Marquette University High School), Peter Raymonds (2014-15, Brookfield East High School), Adam Pohlman (2013-14, Neenah High School), Andrija Novakovich (2012-13, Muskego High School), Patrick Hodan (2011-12, Marquette University High School), Alex Megna (2010-11, Marquette University High School), David Caban (2009-10, Tremper High School), Robbie Boyd (2008-09, Marquette University High School), Stuart Grable (2007-08, Neenah High School), and Eric Meyer (2006-07, James Madison Memorial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Zak 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.

###