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OAK MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA 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 Kennedy Davis of Oak Mountain High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Davis is the third Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Mountain 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 Davis as Alabama'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, Davis 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-9, 155-pound senior midfielder led the Eagles to a 20-4-4 record and a third straight Class 7A state championship this past season. Davis scored 22 goals and passed for 12 assists. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 46 goals and 30 assists. Davis has volunteered locally at the Bell Center Youth Alliance with special needs children and as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Kennedy is an elite and special talent," said Matt Hall, head coach of Spain Park High School. "He plays multiple positions. He does so many things well and is a great kid."

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Davis has maintained a weighted 4.05 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Dartmouth College, 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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year JJ Williams (2015-16, Alabama Christian Academy), Eduvie Ikoba (2014-15, Bob Jones High School), Jake Rufe (2013-14, Grissom High School), Chandler Stroupe (2012-13, Oak Mountain High School), Jack Hopkins (2011-12, Vestavia Hills High School), Nathan Diehl (2010-11 & 2009-10, Mountain Brook High School), Chandler Hoffman (2008-09 & 2007-08, Oak Mountain High School), and Paul Willoughby (2006-07, Grissom High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kennedy 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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