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FLEMING ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Reed Davis of Fleming Island High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Fleming Island 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 Florida'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 6-foot, 170-pound junior forward led the Golden Eagles to a 24-1-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Davis scored 50 goals and passed for 15 assists to earn the state's Mr. Soccer honor. He stepped up his game in the postseason, scoring three game-winning goals, all in overtime. Davis tallied nine times in five playoff games and had a goal and assist in the team's 4-0 win over Doral Academy in the state final.

Davis has volunteered locally at the Barco-Newton Family YMCA and as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Reed is one of those players that you must change the way that you play to make sure that you minimize his outcome on the game," said Carlos Celis, head coach of Oakleaf High School. "You could not leave him alone for one second because he would make you pay."

Davis has maintained a weighted 4.20 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Jacksonville University beginning in the fall of 2018.

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 Florida Boys Soccer Players of the Year Esteban Calvo (2015-16, Montverde Academy), Trey Langlois (2014-15, Bishop Kenny High School), Diego Campos (2013-14, Montverde Academy), Thales Moreno (2012-13, Montverde Academy), Brian James (2011-12, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Verner Valimaa (2010-11, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Max Rockwell (2009-10, JW Mitchell High School), Hasani Sinclair (2008-09, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Shawn Barry (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Eugene Starikov (2006-07, Palm Harbor University High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Reed 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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