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REITZ MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA 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 Andrew Cross of Reitz Memorial High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Cross is the sixth Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Reitz Memorial 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 Cross as Indiana'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, Cross 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-10, 150-pound junior forward led the Tigers to a 19-4-1 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Cross scored 37 goals and passed for 20 assists, scoring twice in a 2-1 win over Chesterton High in the state final. In seven postseason games, Cross tallied nine goals and five assists, scoring at least one goal in every tournament game. A First Team All-State honoree and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, he concluded his junior year with 71 goals and 32 assists in his prep soccer career.

A member of the Evansville Memorial Chess Club, Cross has volunteered locally with a school mentoring and drug prevention group and as a youth soccer coach. "Andrew Cross is one of the more dynamic players I've seen in the last 15 years," said Jason Watkins, head coach of Harrison High School. "He has incredible speed, but at the same time is very technically proficient. He was extremely hard to defend and made their team much better."

Cross has maintained a 3.60 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.

Cross joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Andreas Roslender (2015-16, Carmel High School), Jordan Kleyn (2014-15, Avon High School), Michael Riedford (2013-14, Reitz Memorial High School), Mike Galullo (2012-13, North Central High School), Femi Hollinger-Janzen (2011-12, Bethany Christian High School), Eriq Zavaleta (2010-11, Westfield High School), A.J. Corrado (2009-10, Zionsville Community High School), Harrison Petts (2008-09, Zionsville Community High School), Mitch Day (2007-08, Memorial High School), and Robby Lynch (2006-07, Carmel High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Andrew 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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