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BETTENDORF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 Jack Dunn of Bettendorf High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Dunn is the ninth Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bettendorf 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 Dunn as Iowa'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, Dunn 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-2, 184-pound senior defender anchored a backfield that recorded 15 shutouts in 18 games, leading the Bulldogs (16-2) to the Class 3A state semifinals. Dunn also chipped in with four goals on offense. Bettendorf allowed just two goals in the regular season, both in the same game, and its only regular-season loss came in a shootout after a scoreless tie. A First Team Class 3A All-State selection by the Iowa High School Coaches Association as a junior, he has already earned a spot on the 2017 Des Moines Register All-Iowa Boys Soccer Team.

Dunn has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee, and he has donated his time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through his church youth group. "Jack puts himself and his teammates in excellent positions to deny goal-scoring opportunities," said Corbin Stone, head coach of Pleasant Valley High School. "His impact for Bettendorf is immeasurable; he is the glue that keeps them together and on track."

Dunn has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Bradley University 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.

Dunn joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Leroy Enzugusi (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), Adam Nicholson (2014-15, Iowa City High School), Sam Graving (2013-14, Johnston High School), Mueng Sunday (2012-13, Iowa City West High School), Eric Williams (2011-12, Valley High School), Gabe Christianson (2010-11, Kennedy High School), Erik Boyer (2009-10, Kennedy High School), Husref Jupic (2008-09, Hoover High School), Hunter Kennedy (2007-08, Washington High School), and Charlie Schwartz (2006-07, Bettendorf High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jack 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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