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**BERKSHIRE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jacob Shaffelburg of Berkshire School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Shaffelburg is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Berkshire 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 Shaffelburg as Massachusetts' 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, Shaffelburg 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 scored 16 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Bears (19-1-1) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament championship game. Ranked as the No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2019 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Shaffelburg concluded his junior year with 50 goals and 25 assists in his prep soccer career.

Formerly a nationally ranked squash player in his native Canada, Shaffelburg has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Jacob is a workhorse and resilient," said Jay Thornhill, head coach of the Hotchkiss School. "He is fast both on and off the ball. One moment he is in the middle of the park, the next he is on a flank run. He commands the midfield."

Shaffelburg has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning in the fall of 2019.

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.

Shaffelburg joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake LaBranche (2016-17, Nauset Regional High School), Luca Levee (2015-16, Milton Academy), Jack Harrison (2014-15 & 2013-14, Berkshire School), Mac Steeves (2012-13, Needham High School), Oliver White (2011-12, Noble & Greenough School), Cole DeNormandie (2010-11, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School), Leon Brown (2009-10, The Roxbury Latin School), Charlie Rugg (2008-09, The Rivers School), Jan Trnka-Amrhein (2007-08, Noble and Greenough School), and Ben Slingerland (2006-07, St. John's Prep School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Shaffelburg 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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