

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Patrick Weah of Wayzata High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Weah is the third Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Wayzata 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 Weah as Minnesota'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, Weah 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, 180-pound sophomore forward scored 20 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Trojans (20-0-2) to the Class AA state championship. A First Team All-State honoree, Weah was an All-American selection by United Soccer Coaches.

Weah has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs and Feed My Starving Children. "Patrick Weah is a terrific soccer player," said Mike Rogers, head coach at Minnetonka High School. "He was by far the most dangerous player we faced. He needs to be double-teamed, and even then, he still finds ways to beat you."

Weah has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Weah joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Juan Louis (2016-17, Washburn High School), Suad Suljic (2015-16 & 2014-15, Minnetonka High School), Justin Oliver (2013-14, North High School), Elliot Cassutt (2012-13, Minneapolis South High School), Matthew Gweh (2011-12, Eastview High School), Eric Miller (2010-11, Woodbury High School), Paul Yonga (2009-10 & 2008-09, Totino-Grace High School), Keidoe Pour (2007-08, Saint Bernard's School), and Abe Gibbons (2006-07, South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Weah 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.

###