

**Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)**

**BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tresor Mugwaneza of Bismarck High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Mugwaneza is the sixth Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck 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 Mugwaneza as North Dakota'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, Mugwaneza 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-9, 155-pound senior midfielder scored 10 goals and passed for 8 assists this past season, leading the Demons (15-2-1) to the state championship. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Mugwaneza was also named Senior Athlete of the Year and earned First Team All-Conference honors for the third time.

Mugwaneza has volunteered as a mentor for younger soccer players. "Tresor Mugwaneza has proven to be very special, both on and off the field," said Ryan Okerson, head coach of Century High. "He's a tremendous leader and any time the ball is at his feet, it's dangerous, regardless of his position on the field. He makes everyone around him better."

Mugwaneza has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Mary 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.

Mugwaneza joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake Reinholz (2016-17, Shanley High School), Bryce Nybo (2015-16, Bismarck High School), Jacob Richter (2014-15, Century High School), Brad Kelly (2013-14, Century High School), Jacob Weiler (2012-13 & 2011-12, Fargo South High School), Braden Schmid (2010-11, West Fargo High School), Mike Frenzel (2009-10, Century High School), Matt Glogoza (2008-09, Shanley High School), Alex Paulson (2007-08, Century High School), and Isak Tengesdal (2006-07, Minot High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Mugwaneza 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###