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## **SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Jon Sherman of South Kingstown High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Sherman is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kingstown 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 Sherman as Rhode Island'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, Sherman 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-7, 150-pound senior midfielder scored 17 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Rebels (11-4-3) to the Division I state championship game. Sherman scored two goals in each of South Kingstown's first three postseason games. A two-year First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 48 goals.

Sherman has participated in a service-mission trip to Belize, where he helped rebuild a playground and worked at an elementary school. He has also volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Jon Sherman is a complete soccer player who scored goals and created chances for his teammates," said Joao Santos, head coach of Central High. "You couldn't leave him alone, and even when marked he was strong on the ball and clever enough to beat any defense."

Sherman has maintained a weighted 3.28 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Rhode Island 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.

Sherman joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Players of the Year Poom Mera (2016-17, Moses Brown School), Stavros Zarokostas (2015-16, La Salle Academy), Leandro Alves (2014-15, Shea High School), Komla Dogbey (2013-14, Hope High School), Dan Apajee (2012-13, La Salle Academy), Colin Patch (2011-12, La Salle Academy), Marcos Ugarte (2010-11, Providence Country Day School), Nick Dubee (2009-10 & 2008-09, Chariho High School), and Brett Uttley (2007-08 & 2006-07, North Kingstown High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sherman 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).

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