

## **SALESIANUM SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 6, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Tommy McGrail of Salesianum School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. McGrail is the ninth Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Salesianum 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 McGrail as Delaware'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, McGrail joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior defender led the Sallies to a 14-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. McGrail anchored a defense that allowed just six goals against in-state opponents, including nine shutouts. Also the Coaches Association State Player of the Year, he was a three-time First Team All-State honoree and a 2018 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

McGrail has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and on behalf of a food bank and homeless shelter. "Tommy has led the team from the back with his ability to defend and organize," said Scott Mosier, head coach of Salesianum School. "What separates him from most as a defender is his technical ability. He is able to play in tight spaces and distribute to all parts of the field."

McGrail has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Delaware 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

McGrail joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Players of the Year Bryce Wallace (2017-18, Salesianum School), Jason Blackwell (2016-17, Salesianum School), Matt Dina (2015-16, Appoquinimink High School), Sam Jester (2014-15, Appoquinimink High School) and Dylan Huber (2013-14, Salesianum School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," McGrail also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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