

**VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Tony Shaw of Vestavia Hills High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Shaw is the fourth Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Vestavia Hills 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 Shaw as Alabama'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, Shaw joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 (2004-05, 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-3, 165-pound senior midfielder scored three goals and passed for five assists in eight games this spring before the remainder of the season was cancelled. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Shaw concluded his prep career with 13 goals and a school-record 28 assists. Also an All-Metro and All-Region honoree, he is a member of the Region 3 Olympic Development Program and helped the Gwinnett Soccer Academy to the Elite National Premier League 17U national final. Shaw is ranked as the South's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2020 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Shaw has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and coaching youth soccer players, and he has raised money to benefit pediatric cancer research. "If I'm buying stock in a student-athlete, it would be in Tony Shaw," said Vestavia Hills coach Leo Harlan. "He's big, strong, fast, a leader and a student of the game. Syracuse is getting a great player with lots of upside."

Shaw has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Syracuse University.

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.

Shaw joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year Logan Frost (2018-19, Briarwood Christian School), Brooks Rice (2017-18, Spain Park High School), Kennedy Davis (2016-17, Oak Mountain High School), JJ Williams (2015-16, Alabama Christian Academy), Eduvie Ikoba (2014-15, Bob Jones High School), and Jake Rufe (2013-14, Grissom High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.