

**AIR ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Thad Dewing of Air Academy High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Dewing is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Air Academy 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 Dewing as Colorado'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, Dewing 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 175-pound senior forward tallied 29 goals and 16 assists this past season, leading the Kadets (15-5) to the Class 4A state championship game. The two-time Class 4A Player of the Year, Dewing participated in the High School All-American Game last December and was ranked as the nation's No. 141 recruit in the Class of 2020 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. A two-time state champion, he concluded his prep soccer career with 80 goals and 30 assists.

A member of the leadership team for his Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, Dewing has volunteered locally on behalf of an anti-bullying campaign at his school. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Thad is definitely a remarkable player," said Ben Corley, head coach of Pine Creek High. "He is one of those rare physical athletes that is hard to match up with. That pure physicality [always] gave Air Academy a chance."

Dewing has maintained a weighted 4.21 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he will play soccer.

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.

Two-time winner Dewing joins Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Players of the Year Michael Mooney (2017-18, Broomfield High School), Tajon Buchanan (2016-17, Legacy High School), Porter Milner (2015-16, Broomfield High School), Quinn Liebmann (2014-15, Boulder High School), and David Meyer (2013-14, Pine Creek 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.