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**SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Jordan Sykes of Skyview High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Sykes is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Sykes as Idaho'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, Sykes 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-2, 170-pound junior defender anchored a defense that recorded seven shutouts, leading the Hawks (9-6-3) to the Class 5A state championship game this past season. The State Player of the Year as named by the Idaho High School Soccer Coaches Association, Sykes played in Spain as a member of the 2019 U.S. Youth Soccer State Olympic Development Team. He also has trained with Major League Soccer's Portland Timbers Academy team.

Sykes has volunteered locally at a summer camp on behalf of Young Life. "Skyview played in a three-back [formation] because of how much they trusted Jordan," said Josh Dalmas, head coach of Meridian High. "Nothing was going to get past him. His defensive skills, dribbling out of the back and all-around knowledge of the game is incredible."

Sykes has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Sykes joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Players of the Year Kristian Quiros (2018-19, Rocky Mountain High School), Ahmed Ibrahimovic (2017-18, Borah High School), Jonah Dalmas (2016-17, Rocky Mountain High School), Alain Murhula (2015-16, Timberline High School), Josh Szuch (2014-15, Borah High School), and Tyson Fox (2013-14, Rocky Mountain 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.

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