

**BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Jack Finnegan of Brother Rice High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Finnegan is the second Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Brother Rice 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 Finnegan as Illinois'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, Finnegan 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 5-foot-10, 156-pound senior forward posted 44 goals and five assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (13-8-3) to the Class 2A Brother Rice Regional final. A two-time All-State selection, Finnegan participated in the High School All-American Game in December. Also the 2019 Daily Southtown Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 101 goals and 30 assists.

Finnegan has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and youth soccer coach, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Jack Finnegan carried the load for that team," said Mike Wiggins, head coach of Hinsdale Central High. "He was always a threat to score and a dangerous attacking player."

Finnegan has maintained a weighted 4.52 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin.

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.

Finnegan joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Players of the Year Colin Iverson (2018-19, Naperville North High School), Tommy Welch (2017-18, Naperville North High School), Chris Sullivan (2016-17, Naperville North High School), Ty Seager (2015-16, Wheaton Academy), Ty Seager (2014-15, Wheaton Academy), and Mike Catalano (2013-14, Lake Park 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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