

**WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Jameson Charles of Washburn High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Charles is the third Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Washburn 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 Charles as Minnesota'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, Charles 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-7, 155-pound senior midfielder scored 11 goals and passed for 26 assists this past season, leading the Millers (16-4-1) to fourth place in the Class 2A state tournament. A First Team All-State and All-Metro honoree, Charles was an All-Great Lakes Region selection by the United Soccer Coaches. He was also named co-MVP of the West team at December's High School All-American Game.

Charles has volunteered locally on behalf of the Sanneh Foundation and Feed My Starving Children. "Charles definitely has a big impact on the overall flow of the game," said Chris Swenson, head coach at Hopkins High School. "He's consistent and he controls the tempo, circulates the ball and creates opportunities for himself and his teammates."

Charles has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina.

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.

Charles joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Herbert Endeley (2018-19, Totino-Grace High School), Patrick Weah (2017-18, Wayzata High School), Juan Louis (2016-17, Washburn High School), Suad Suljic (2015-16, Minnetonka High School), Suad Suljic (2014-15, Minnetonka High School), and Justin Oliver (2013-14, North 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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