

**ROCKWOOD SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Christian Kraus of Rockwood Summit High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Kraus is the third Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rockwood Summit 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 Kraus as Missouri'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, Kraus 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, 190-pound senior forward led the Falcons to a 29-0-1 record and the Class 3 state championship this past season. Kraus amassed 45 goals and 21 assists, including one of each in Rockwood's 2-1 win over Platte County High in the state final. The Missouri High School Coaches Association Class 3 Player of the Year, Kraus was also the St. Louis Post Dispatch Metro Player of the Year. He concluded his prep soccer career with 77 goals and 49 assists.

A member of the Rockwood Summit Captain's Council, Kraus has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth soccer coach. "Kraus was a nightmare for us," said Michael Hanna, head coach of Eureka High. "He was the focus of every team in the area and nobody was able to come up with a real solution for him. He was the key piece and leader of that team."

Kraus has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of South 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.

Kraus joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nolan DeWeese (2018-19, Christian Brothers College High School), Kyle Ruark (2017-18, Rockhurst High School), Billy Hency (2016-17, Rockwood Summit High School), AJ Palazzolo (2015-16, Christian Brothers College High School), Dalton Souder (2014-15, Lee's Summit High School), and Keith Grieshaber (2013-14, Marquette 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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