

**ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Kyle Folds of St. Ignatius High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Folds is the fifth Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Ignatius 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 Folds as Ohio'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, Folds 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-1, 200-pound senior midfielder led the Wildcats to a 21-0-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Folds tallied 10 goals and five assists, and helped lead a defense that allowed just nine scores. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Folds participated in the High School All-American Game in December. Ranked as the nation's No. 68 prospect in the Class of 2020 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, he concluded his prep soccer career with 27 goals and 10 assists.

Folds served as a student ambassador at St. Ignatius High School, and he has volunteered locally at a ministry for the homeless. "Kyle can dominate with his physical presence in the midfield and can completely control a game," said Ryan Greenhill, head coach of Solon High School. "He was the most effective and dominant player we played all season."

Folds has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Indiana University.

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.

Folds joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brennan Callow (2018-19, The Seven Hills School), Luke Kiley (2017-18, Dublin Coffman High School), Stephen Milhoan (2016-17, St. Ignatius High School), Stephen Milhoan (2015-16, St. Ignatius High School), Chris Brennan (2014-15, Copley High School), and Jack Clark (2013-14, Mason 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).