

**JENKS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Will Edwards of Jenks High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Edwards is the eighth Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jenks 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 Edwards as Oklahoma'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, Edwards 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-8, 140-pound senior forward and midfielder scored four goals and passed for four assists in eight games this spring before the remainder of the season was cancelled. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Edwards concluded his prep career with 40 goals and 27 assists. An All-State and All-Metro selection, he was named a Top Drawer Soccer First Team All-American after leading the Trojans to a perfect 18-0 season and the 2019 Class 6A state championship, recording 14 goals and eight assists.

Edwards has served on his school's student council and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Make-a-Wish Foundation as well as a youth summer camp. "Will is the type of player who can turn a game on its head," said Jenks coach Eric Marshall. "He can take on players in and around the box to score a goal. He can start a counterattack with a well-placed through ball, or penetrate on the dribble to open up space for other players. He's a very intelligent player who has been a leader on and off the field."

Edwards has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Tulsa.

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.

Two-time winner Edwards joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Players of the Year Daryl Dike (2017-18, Edmond North High School), Dante Brigida (2016-17, Edmond Santa Fe High School), Garrett McLaughlin (2015-16, Heritage Hall), Garrett McLaughlin (2014-15, Heritage Hall), and Mauro Cichero (2013-14, Norman 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).