

**ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Suad Smajlovic of Roosevelt High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Smajlovic is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Roosevelt 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 Smajlovic as South Dakota'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, Smajlovic 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, 175-pound senior forward and midfielder led the Rough Riders to a 12-1-2 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Smajlovic tallied 12 goals and 11 assists, including the lone score in Roosevelt's 1-0 win over Washington High in the state final. A First Team All-State selection, Smajlovic was also the MaxPreps State Player of the Year. He concluded his prep soccer career with 37 goals and 28 assists.

Smajlovic works two part-time jobs and has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Suad was dangerous in the game we played against him and throughout the season," said Steve Binkley, head coach of Brookings High School. "He was physical and fast."

Smajlovic has maintained a 3.22 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Dubuque in Iowa, where he will play soccer.

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.

Smajlovic joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jeremie Benson (2018-19, Washington High School), Isaac Woods (2017-18, Lincoln High School), Marcus Hluchy (2016-17 & 2015-16, Aberdeen Central High School), and Lee Wynja (2014-15 & 2013-14, Sioux Falls Christian 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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