

**LAYTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Eli Nixon of Layton High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Nixon is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Layton 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 Nixon as Utah'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, Nixon 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 Utah Youth Soccer Male Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior forward concluded his prep career with 24 goals. Nixon is a member of the West Region Olympic Development Program and was a standout at the 2020 U.S. Youth Soccer National Training Camp in January. He scored 13 goals and passed for four assists in 2019, leading the Lancers (13-4-1) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals and earning First Team All-State honors.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Nixon has volunteered locally as a church youth group leader and has collected soccer equipment for donation to refugee children. "Eli is truly an outstanding soccer player and one of the best forwards to ever play for Layton High," said Layton High School coach Derek Amano. "He's extremely athletic with loads of speed, an eye for slotting passes and a natural instinct for scoring goals. He's always been one of the top players in the state in his age group."

Nixon has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Utah Valley 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.

Nixon joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jack Terrill (2018-19, Judge Memorial Catholic High School), Carter Johnson (2017-18, Herriman High School), Carlos Becerra (2016-17, Copper Hills High School), Aidan Dayton (2015-16, Maple Mountain High School), Christian Bain (2014-15, Alta High School), and Lucas Cawley (2013-14, Viewmont 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.