

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Cullen Swett of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Swett is the eighth Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Swett as Vermont'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, Swett 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, 178-pound senior defender scored three goals and passed for four assists this past season, leading the Redhawks (16-0-1) to the Division 1 state championship. Swett led a defense that allowed just six goals all season and notched 12 shutouts. A First Team All-State and All-Metro honoree, he was also a United Soccer Coaches All-New England selection.

Swett has served as a mentor for a foster child and has volunteered on behalf of clothing drives for the needy and youth sports programs. "Swett is a tremendous one-on-one defender who can read the angles and always seems to be in the right position," said Stephen Levesque, head coach at St. Johnsbury Academy. "He anchored their defense and he's also a fantastic distributor of the ball out of the back—he can drive a ball 50 yards with pinpoint accuracy."

Swett has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at the University of Vermont.

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.

Swett joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Pablo Gonzalez Rotger (2018-19, St. Johnsbury Academy), Patrick O'Hara (2017-18 & 2016-17, South Burlington High School), Leland Gazo (2015-16, Rice Memorial High School), Aiman Ginawi (2014-15, South Burlington High School), and Zack Evans (2013-14, Champlain Valley Union 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.