

**ROBERT C. BYRD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Khori Miles of Robert C. Byrd High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Miles is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Robert C. Byrd 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 Miles as West Virginia'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, Miles 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, 180-pound senior forward scored 55 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (18-3-1) to the Class A-AA state championship game. The West Virginia Sports Writers Association Player of the Year, Miles was also selected as Class A-AA Player of the Year by the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association. He finished his prep career with 149 goals and 58 assists.

Miles has volunteered locally on behalf of blood-donation drives and the Walk for Water. "Khori Miles was the best player in the state this year," said Darrin Paul, head coach at Fairmont Senior High School. "He has the size, strength and speed to compete with anyone; he's been a dominant forward since his freshman year."

Miles has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Alderson Broaddus 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.

Miles joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Joseph Biafora (2018-19, University High School), Seth Jordan (2017-18 & 2016-17, Nitro High School), Addison Luck (2015-16 & 2014-15, Morgantown High School), and Garrett Phillips (2013-14, George Washington 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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