

**INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 11, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Jackson Nabors of Indian Springs School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Nabors is the third Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Indian Springs 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 Nabors as Alabama'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, Nabors 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-7, 180-pound junior forward scored a state-best 52 goals and passed for 23 assists this past season, leading Indian Springs (24-2-1) to the Class 4A-5A state championship. Nabors was a First Team Super All-State and First Team All-Metro selection. He was also named MVP of the Class 4A-5A state tournament.

Nabors has served on Birmingham's Youth Philanthropy Council and has volunteered locally on behalf of food banks, Christmas toy drives and an Urban Service Camp empowerment week in association with Birmingham YouthServe. "Nabors stands out because he's 6-7, but he's just a great player," said Hunter Wolfe, head coach at John Carroll Catholic. "He's great in the air, he's got great touch, he's good with both feet. He gets hacked and fouled all the time, but he scored against everybody."

Nabors has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Nabors joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year Tony Shaw (2019-20, Vestavia Hills High School), Logan Frost (2018-19, Briarwood Christian School), Brooks Rice (2017-18, Spain Park High School), and Kennedy Davis (2016-17, Oak Mountain High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Nabors has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Nabors is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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