

**APPOQUINIMINK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Aidan McDade of Appoquinimink High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year. McDade is the third Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Appoquinimink 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 McDade as Delaware'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, McDade 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-5, 140-pound senior midfielder led the Jaguars to a 14-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. McDade scored seven goals and passed for 17 assists, including the assist on Appo's lone goal in a 1-1 shootout victory over Salesianum School in the state final. The Delaware High School Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, McDade was a two-time First Team All-State selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 21 goals and 38 assists.

McDade has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Aidan's ability to find space and create for himself and his teammates was unmatched," said Anthony Dirienzo, head coach of Middletown High. "He was a dangerous attacking player."

McDade has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He will train with the Macclesfield FC International Academy in England beginning 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.

McDade joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Players of the Year Drew Blackwell (2019-20, Salesianum School), Tommy McGrail (2018-19, Salesianum School), Bryce Wallace (2017-18, Salesianum School), and Jason Blackwell (2016-17, Salesianum School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," McDade has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. McDade 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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