

**LARRY A. RYLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 11, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Noah Moeller of Larry A. Ryle High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Moeller is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Larry A. Ryle 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 Moeller as Kentucky'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, Moeller 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-5, 172-pound senior defender anchored a defense that allowed five goals all season, leading the Raiders (17-1) to the state tournament semifinals. The Eastern Region Player of the Year, Moeller was at the heart of a defense that opened the season with 10 consecutive shutouts and did not allow more than one goal in any game. The Raiders lost in the state semifinals in a shootout. A First Team All-State selection, he was the Northern Kentucky High School Soccer Coaches Association All-Region Defensive Player of the Year.

Moeller has volunteered locally at GO Pantry, a non-profit providing food for hungry children in Northern Kentucky. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and elementary school aide. "Noah's biggest contribution was that he was a game-changer and when challenged, he would take over games," said Steve Hahn, head coach of St. Henry High. "With his distribution and knowledge of the game he made his teammates better. As a coach on the other sideline, you had to have an answer for him."

Moeller has maintained a weighted 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Moeller joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sota Ippongi (2019-20, Henry Clay High School), Brandon McManus (2018-19, Trinity High School), Jansen Wilson (2017-18, Elizabethtown High School), and Haji Abdikadir (2016-17, Louisville Collegiate School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Moeller has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Moeller 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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