

**LUSHER CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Jourdan Schumacher of Lusher Charter School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Schumacher is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lusher Charter 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 Schumacher as Louisiana'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, Schumacher 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-3, 160-pound senior goalkeeper recorded 14 shutouts and a 0.65 goals against average this past season, leading the Lions (22-1-2) to the Division 3 state championship. The MVP of the state championship game, he was a First Team All-District and All-State honoree and was named the state Division 3 Defensive Player of the Year.

Schumacher has volunteered locally on behalf of the Audubon Zoo as well as youth soccer programs. "Schumacher's soccer IQ is high," said Alan DeRitter, head coach at De La Salle High. "He's tall and rangy, with great hands, and he has an understanding of how to play offensively, which most keepers lack."

Schumacher has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Coastal Carolina University (S.C.) 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.

Schumacher joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zayne Zezulka (2019-20, Dutchtown High School), Conner Walmsley (2018-19, St. Paul's School), Shane Lanson (2017-18, Jesuit High School), and Josh Hughes (2016-17, Westminster Christian Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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