

**MUSTANG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Isaias Silva of Mustang High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Silva is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mustang 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 Silva as Oklahoma'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, Silva 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-11, 165-pound senior forward scored 33 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Broncos (17-1) to the Class 6A semifinals. The Central Oklahoma Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Silva is an All-State and All-District selection and was named a United Soccer Coaches All-American in 2020. He concluded his prep career with 71 goals and 26 assists.

Silva has volunteered locally on behalf of an afterschool program for young students and a Christmas gift initiative for underprivileged children. "Isaias Silva is the best player in the state," said Joe Peeler, head coach at Edmond Santa Fe High. "He's just a complete player—a goal-scorer with a great work rate who makes the teammates around him better."

Silva has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Mid-America Christian University 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.

Silva joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Players of the Year Will Edwards (2019-20 & 2018-19, Jenks High School), Daryl Dike (2017-18, Edmond North High School), and Dante Brigida (2016-17, Edmond Santa Fe High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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