

**MCCALLIE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Gui Vivaldini of McCallie School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Vivaldini is the third Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from McCallie 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 Vivaldini as Tennessee'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, Vivaldini 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, 170-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 14 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Blue Tornado (8-2-2) to the Division II-AA state semifinals. The Division II-AA Middle/East Region Player of the Year, Vivaldini was a 2019 TopDrawerSoccer.com All-American selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 41 goals and 23 assists.

A resident advisor in his dorm at McCallie, Vivaldini has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Gui plays with so much speed and is dangerous in so many ways," said Warren Smith, head coach of Chattanooga Christian High. "He is very, very difficult to defend. His size makes him a force."

Vivaldini has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Vivaldini joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brandon Parrish (2019-20 & 2018-19, Fairview High School), Atakelti Gebregzabher (2017-18, Station Camp High School), and Drew Viscomi (2016-17, McCallie School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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