

**MILTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Chance Rose of Milton High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Rose is the second Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Milton 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 Rose as Vermont'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, Rose 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-7, 140-pound senior midfielder scored four goals and passed for one assist this past season, leading the Yellowjackets (10-2) to the Division 2 state final. A United Soccer Coaches All-American, Rose was also a First Team All-State selection and was named the Lake Division Player of the Year. He concluded his prep career with 23 goals and 19 assists.

Also a talented musician, Rose has volunteered locally on behalf of the Milton Family Community Center. "Chance Rose is a quality player who has the ability to take over a game and control the pace and flow of play," said Reeves Livesay, head coach at Middlebury High. "He's a playmaker who can float between different roles and spaces on the field. He can push forward and use his vision to establish the team attack or he can shut down the opponent's strongest player as a defender."

Rose has maintained a 4.23 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Virginia 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.

Rose joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Cullen Swett (2019-20, Champlain Valley Union High School), Pablo Gonzalez Rotger (2018-19, St. Johnsbury Academy), and Patrick O'Hara (2017-18 & 2016-17, South Burlington High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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