HELLGATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 16, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Brady Reed** of **Hellgate High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Reed is the sixth Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hellgate 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 Reed as Montana'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, Reed joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6, 128-pound sophomore forward led the Knights to a 16-1 record and a fourth-straight Class AA state championship this past season. Reed scored 10 goals and passed for 23 assists, including the setup of the lone goal in Hellgate's 1-0 win over Billings Senior High School in the state title game. He is the first player from Montana to be named to the United States Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program national team.

A practiced pianist, Reed has volunteered locally playing music at a nursing home. He has also donated his time as a peer math tutor and as a youth soccer coach and referee. "There are very few players who are as dangerous as Brady," said Jay Anderson, head coach of Hellgate High School. "He has both the ability to beat defenders one-on-one and the vision to play a killer pass in tight spaces. The technical ability he has on the ball, combined with his creativity, makes him incredibly hard to contain."

Reed has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Reed joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Marcus Anderson (2021-22, Hellgate High School), Beckett Arthur (2020-21, Hellgate High School), Zach Springer (2019-20, Bozeman High School), and Ted Scott (2018-19, Bozeman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.