## SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 16, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Aidan Morrison** of **Seven Lakes High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Morrison is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Seven Lakes 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 Morrison as Texas' 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, Morrison 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 6-foot-2, 160-pound junior midfielder led the Spartans to a 28-1-1 record and the Conference 6A state championship this past season. Morrison scored 16 goals and passed for 20 assists, including the assist on one of two Seven Lakes High School netted during a 2-1 win over Dripping Springs High School in the state final. The 2022 Houston Chronicle Player of the Year, he is a two-time Conference 6A First Team All-State selection.

A member of his school's Student Athletic Leadership Team, Morrison has volunteered locally in association with a Vacation Bible School, and he has donated his time as a tutor to students with special needs. "Aidan Morrison is a special player," said Josh Hill, head coach of Dripping Springs High School. "He controlled the game as a holding midfielder, both offensively and defensively. You don't often see both of those qualities, but that kid does both."

Morrison has maintained a weighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Morrison joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brennan Bezdek (2021-22, Wakeland High School), Bryce Boneau (2020-21, Keller High School), Mayno Linares (2019-20, Elsik High School), and Andrew Erickson (2018-19, Legacy of Educational Excellence 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 student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <a href="mailto:facebook.com/Gatorade">facebook.com/Gatorade</a> and Twitter at <a href="mailto:twitter.com/Gatorade">twitter.com/Gatorade</a>.