ST. ALBANS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Charlie Irwin** of **St. Albans School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Irwin is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from **St. Albans School**.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Irwin as District of Columbia's best high school boys soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Lyle Yorks (1987-88, E.O. Smith High School, Conn.), Alecko Eskandarian (1999-00, Bergen Catholic High School, N.J.) and Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.).

The 5-foot-7, 170-pound senior midfielder led the Bulldogs to a 17-1-2 record and both the Interstate Athletic Conference postseason title and the DCSAA Tournament championship this past season. Irwin scored seven goals and passed for five assists, netting the game-winner in St. Albans' 1-0 win over the Landon School in the IAC title game. A Washington Post First Team All-Met selection, he was the 2023 IAC co-Player of the Year.

A four-year member of the St. Albans School varsity hockey and lacrosse teams, Irwin has volunteered locally at Stride Summer Camp, which supports children from underserved communities. "Charlie was everywhere for us," said Brian Schultz, head coach of St. Albans School. "He covered so much ground, never needed a break and did all the dirty work that was required."

Irwin has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He will attend Boston College this fall but will not continue his competitive soccer career there.

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.

Irwin joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nick Laffey (2022-23 & 2021-22, St. John's College High School), Pandelis Margaronis (2020-21, St. John's College High School) and Ryan Elie (2019-20, Gonzaga College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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