LOUISVILLE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Nick Harshaw** of **Louisville Collegiate School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Harshaw is the second Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Louisville Collegiate 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 Harshaw as Kentucky'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-8, 140-pound senior midfielder scored 21 goals and passed for 28 assists this past season, leading the Titans (18-3-2) to the Seventh Region Tournament championship game. The state's Offensive Player of the Year, Harshaw was a 2023 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection and a two-time First Team All-State honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 44 goals and 47 assists.

Harshaw has volunteered locally with Whitney Strong, an organization dedicated to preventing gun violence in the Louisville area. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Nick Harshaw was the absolute biggest headache we faced all season," said Andy Schulten, head coach of St. Xavier High School. "He's a fast, decisive and creative attacker."

Harshaw has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Bellarmine University 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.

Harshaw joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Travis Smith (2022-23, DuPont Manual High School), Nate Traughber (2021-22, Kentucky Country Day School), Noah Moeller (2020-21, Larry A. Ryle High School) and Sota Ippongi (2019-20, Henry Clay 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>.