SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Aidan Morrison** of **Seven Lakes High School** is the **2023-24 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 celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Morrison as Texas' 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 160-pound senior 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 and he added one assist in Seven Lakes' 2-1 win over Flower Mound 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 at a Vacation Bible School and he has donated his time as a tutor to special needs students. "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 always see both of those qualities, but that kid does both."

Morrison has maintained a weighted 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Liberty 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.

Two-time winner 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) and Mayno Linares (2019-20, Elsik 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>.