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**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Ryan Elie of Gonzaga College High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Elie is the eighth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Elie as District of Columbia'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, Elie joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The District's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11, 160-pound senior forward and midfielder led the Eagles to a 14-6-6 record and both the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference and DCSAA tournament championships this past season. Elie tallied 17 goals and 10 assists, including 10 goals and three assists in Gonzaga's seven postseason matches. The DCSAA Player of the Year, he was a First Team All-Met selection by the Washington Post.

Elie has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and soccer coach, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Ryan is a tremendous player," said Andrew Quinn, head coach of DeMatha High. "He is a player who if he gets one opportunity to change the course of a game, he will. Ryan is always his best in the biggest games and finds a way to deliver when his team needs him the most."

Elie has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Tennessee, but will not participate in intercollegiate athletics.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Elie joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Theo Biddle (2017-18, Woodrow Wilson High School), Nico Ubide (2016-17, Washington International School), Nate Johnson (2015-16, St. Albans School), Chris Fleischer (2014-15, St. Albans School), and Nick Jackson (2013-14, Sidwell Friends School) among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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