

**JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Michael Meese of Jamestown High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Meese is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jamestown 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 Meese as Virginia'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, Meese 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 5-foot-11, 175-pound senior forward concluded his three-year prep soccer career with 103 goals to rank No. 6 in state history. A three-time Class 4A First Team All-State selection, Meese totaled 52 goals and 16 assists as a junior and was a USA TODAY Third Team All-American and the Daily Press Player of the Year. He was also named a First Team Spring All-American by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Meese has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school literacy-outreach program and as a youth tutor. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Michael plays the game with a tenacity that is unparalleled, and when paired with his will to score he is almost unstoppable," said Brian Sorrell, head coach of Lafayette High School. "I have not seen anyone with his speed, technical ability or his want to score in a long time."

Meese has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the College of William and Mary.

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.

Meese joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Clay Obara (2018-19, Frank W. Cox High School), Bryan Silver (2017-18, Oakton High School), Jacob Labovitz (2016-17, Langley High School), Lucas Mendes (2015-16, Washington-Lee High School), Marcel Berry (2014-15, Albemarle High School), and Peter Pearson (2013-14, Cape Henry Collegiate 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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