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**SAN CLEMENTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tristan Weber of San Clemente High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Weber is the first Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from San Clemente 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 Weber as California'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, Weber joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-8, 150-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 15 goals and passed for 22 assists this past season, leading the Tritons (19-10-2) to the Southern Section Division 1 tournament semifinals. Weber contributed three goals and two assists in the postseason as San Clemente reached the SoCal Division I Regional championship game in his only year of high school soccer. The South Coast League MVP, Weber spent his junior year of high school in residency with the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Men's National Team in Bradenton, Fla.

Weber has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects and as a youth soccer coach. "We controlled much of the game against San Clemente, but we had no answer for Tristan," said Joe Penaflor, head coach of Santa Ana High. "In all my years coaching there are only a few players that we could not control, and he just powered through my backline."

Weber has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Portland this fall.

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.

Weber joins recent Gatorade California Boys Soccer Players of the Year Rodney Michael (2016-17, Dunn School), Elliot Smith-Hastie (2015-16, Loyola High School), Corban Anderson (2014-15, Granite Bay High School), Abu Danladi (2013-14, Dunn School), Cristian Roldan (2012-13, El Rancho High School), Ema Boateng (2011-12, Cate School), Seth Casiple (2010-11, Rocklin High School), Reed Williams (2009-10, Corona del Mar), Adam Jahn (2008-09 & 2007-08, Jesuit High School), and Jalil Anibaba (2006-07, Davis Senior) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Weber will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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