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**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jordy Triana-Vasquez of Valley High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Triana-Vasquez is the fifth Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley 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 Triana-Vasquez as Iowa'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, Triana-Vasquez 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-4, 145-pound senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Tigers (18-2) the Class 3A state quarterfinals. A four-time First Team All-Conference selection, Triana-Vasquez recorded at least one point in 16 of the 19 games in which he played. He concluded his prep soccer career with 38 goals and 34 assists.

An avid photographer, Triana-Vasquez has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach, and he has donated his time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Jordy was instrumental on and off the ball," said Gary Fuentes, head coach of Sioux City West High. "He really set the pace for the Valley offense. He is a true attacking midfielder."

Triana-Vasquez has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Triana-Vasquez joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jack Dunn (2016-17, Bettendorf High School), Leroy Enzugusi (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), Adam Nicholson (2014-15, Iowa City High School), Sam Graving (2013-14, Johnston High School), Mueng Sunday (2012-13, Iowa City West High School), Eric Williams (2011-12, Valley High School), Gabe Christianson (2010-11, Kennedy High School), Erik Boyer (2009-10, Kennedy High School), Husref Jupic (2008-09, Hoover High School), Hunter Kennedy (2007-08, Washington High School), and Charlie Schwartz (2006-07, Bettendorf High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Triana-Vasquez 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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