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**LAKERIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Johnny Rodas-Hills of Lakeridge High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Rodas-Hills is the third Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeridge 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 Rodas-Hills as Oregon'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, Rodas-Hills 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-7, 150-pound senior midfielder scored 22 goals and passed for 14 assists this past season, leading the Pacers (7-4-4) to the Class 6A state tournament. The Class 6A Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, Rodas-Hills participated in the High School All-American Game last December. He concluded his prep soccer career with 55 goals and 41 assists.

Rodas-Hills has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and as a youth soccer coach. "Johnny is a true playmaker and goal-scorer," said Jason Bell, head coach of Lakeridge High. "I always get quietly excited when I see him get the ball in the opposition's half. I immediately see him coming alive and looking to somehow create a chance for us to score."

Rodas-Hills has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Oregon State University beginning 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.

Rodas-Hills joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Paul Seydel (2016-17, Lakeridge High School), Stuart Aeschliman (2015-16, West Salem High School), Gio Magana (2014-15, Hood River Valley High School), Antonio Porreco (2013-14, Jesuit High School), Eddie Sanchez (2012-13, Canby High School), Jaime Velasco (2011-12, Westview High School), Jake Bishop (2010-11, Jesuit High School), Thomas Iwasaki (2009-10, Lake Oswego High School), Jonathan Flores (2008-09, McMinnville High School), Chilo Rivera (2007-08, Glencoe High School), and Frankie Lopez (2006-07, McMinnville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Rodas-Hills 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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