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JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE OREGON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Antonio Porreco of Jesuit High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Porreco is the sixth Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Porreco 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 May, Porreco joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6, 140-pound senior midfielder led the Crusaders to a 17-1-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Porreco scored 15 goals and passed for 12 assists. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Program team, he was a First Team All-Metro selection and the October 2013 winner of the Oregon Sports Award High School Athlete of the Month.

Porreco has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally at an assisted living facility and as part of multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of a youth group in Hillsboro.

"Antonio Porreco is the standout for me as he really drove the Jesuit team with his technical ability and overall sense of the game," said Tom Lathrop, head coach of Westview High. "He was their playmaker and much of the offense ran through him."

Porreco has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Loyola Marymount University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Porreco joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year 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), Chilo Rivera (2007-08, Glencoe), and Frankie Lopez (2006-2007, McMinnville) among the state's list of former award winners.

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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.