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**HOOD RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Gio Magana of Hood River Valley High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Magana is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hood River 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 Magana 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, Magana 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-7, 124-pound junior midfielder led the Eagles to an 18-0 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Magana scored 16 goals and passed for 13 assists, including a goal and an assist in Hood River Valley's 2-0 win over Woodburn High in the state final. A two-time Class 5A Player of the Year, he concluded his junior year with 40 goals and 33 assists in his prep soccer career.

Magana has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects, as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of the Oregon Gran Fondo bike race.

"Gio Magana is one of the fastest players I have seen in my high school coaching career," said Rich Harshberger, head coach of Hermiston High. "It isn't just physical speed—it's speed of thought and speed of touch. Gio is like a chess player who sees 2 or 3 moves ahead."

Magana will begin his senior year of high school 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Magana joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year 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), Chilo Rivera (2007-08, Glencoe), and Frankie Lopez (2006-07, 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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