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**WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 11, 2016) — In its 31th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Stuart Aeschliman of West Salem High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Aeschliman is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Salem 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 Aeschliman 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, Aeschliman 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-9, 145-pound junior forward scored 14 goals and passed for nine assists last season, leading the Titans (11-5-3) to the Class 6A state championship game. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Program, Aeschliman is a Class 6A First Team All-State selection and a three-time First Team All-Conference honoree. He concluded his junior year with 44 goals and 20 assists in his prep soccer career.

Aeschliman has maintained a 3.15 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 as a Spanish classroom aide and as a youth soccer coach in addition to donating his time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through his church youth group.

"Stuart Aeschliman almost single-handedly advanced his team through the playoffs to reach the state final," said Eric Johansen, head coach of South Salem High. "I was constantly focused on Stuart during our game with them. He was the most dangerous player on the field."

Aeschliman 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.

Aeschliman joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year 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.

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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