

COLUMBIA RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 16, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Alex Harris of Columbia River High School is the 2022-23 Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Harris is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Columbia River 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 Harris as Washington’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, Harris joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11, 160-pound senior forward led the Rapids to a 24-0 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Harris scored 76 goals and passed for 12 assists, including two goals and an assist in Columbia River High School’s 4-2 win over North Kitsap High School in the state final. Harris compiled 22 multi-goal games, including nine hat tricks, three four-goal games and five five-goal games. The two-time Greater St. Helen’s League Player of the Year, he concluded his three-year prep soccer career with 134 goals.

Harris has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and at a pharmacy distribution center. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach. “Alex Harris is the most talented and smartest soccer player I have experienced in my 14 years of coaching high school soccer,” said Brian Newman, head coach of Ridgefield High School. “He is very fast and a very accurate striker with both feet. We had to man-mark him just to keep his scoring at three goals against us.”

A member of his school’s International Baccalaureate program, Harris has maintained a 4.50 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to attend Cornell University, where he will play soccer, 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Harris joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Players of the Year Thomas Vlasak (2020-21, Lewis & Clark High School), and Logan Oyama (2019-20 & 2018-19, Puyallup High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade’s Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners, supporting Gatorade’s ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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