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ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 12, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Stephen Milhoan of St. Ignatius High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Milhoan is the third Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Ignatius 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 Milhoan as Ohio'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, Milhoan 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-9, 165-pound senior forward led the Wildcats to a 21-0-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Milhoan scored 31 goals and passed for nine assists, recording one of each in a 2-1 win over St. Charles Preparatory School in the state final. He scored a game-winning, overtime goal in the state semifinals and recorded 12 goals and six assists in St. Ignatius' seven-game postseason run to the state title. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America's 2016 National Player of the Year, Milhoan is a two-time Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association Division I Player of the Year, and he concluded his prep soccer career with 80 goals and 39 assists.

Milhoan has volunteered locally at a home for cancer patients and at a homeless shelter. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Stephen was a special player," said Rick Collins, head coach of Olentangy Liberty High School. "He was everywhere, always on the ball and active making runs off the ball and very hard to mark."

Milhoan has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Xavier 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.

Milhoan joins Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Players of the Year Chris Brennan (2014-15, Copley High School), Jack Clark (2013-14, Mason High School), Sam Bascom (2012-13, Madeira High School), Matt Foldesy (2011-12, St. Ignatius High School), Wil Trapp (2010-11 & 2009-10, Lincoln High School), Matt Wiet (2008-09, Worthington Kilbourne High School), Nick Blevins (2007-08, Bloom Carroll High School), and Lamar Skeeter (2006-07, Fairmont High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Stephen 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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