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**BORAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Ahmed Ibrahimovic of Borah High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Ibrahimovic is the second Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Borah 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 Ibrahimovic as Idaho'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, Ibrahimovic 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 5-foot-6, 143-pound junior midfielder led the Lions to a 15-4-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Ibrahimovic scored 21 goals and passed for 17 assists, tallying two goals and one assist in Borah's 3-2 win over Post Falls High in the state finals. He was the Southern Idaho Conference Class 5A Player of the Year.

Ibrahimovic has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects. "Ahmed's soccer IQ and ability on the ball are crazy," said Mike Darrow, head coach of Boise High. "If Ahmed was not playing well, Borah was not playing well. He pulls all the strings for them."

Ibrahimovic has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He 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 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.

Ibrahimovic joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jonah Dalmas (2016-17, Rocky Mountain High School), Alain Murhula (2015-16, Timberline High School), Josh Szuch (2014-15, Borah High School), Tyson Fox (2013-14, Rocky Mountain High School), Timmy Mueller (2012-13, Post Falls High School), Bryson Pavel (2011-12, Boise High School), Michael Soderlund (2010-11, Timberline High School), Justin Hill (2009-10 & 2008-09, Boise High School), Nick Sykes (2007-08, Mountain View High School), and Mike McLeod (2006-07, Boise High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Ibrahimovic 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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