

## **CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 6, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Avery Whipple of Corvallis High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Whipple is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Corvallis 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 Whipple 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 June, Whipple joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-11, 155-pound senior defensive center and midfielder led the Spartans to a 14-1-2 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Whipple scored eight goals and passed for 14 assists. The Class 5A State Player of the Year, Whipple was also a First Team All-State selection after earning Second Team honors in 2017. He concluded his prep soccer career with 18 goals and 27 assists.

A member of the Corvallis Kiwanis Key Club, Whipple is the president of his school's National Honor Society. He has volunteered locally providing food for families in need in addition to donating his time as a youth soccer coach. "Avery is a phenomenal player," said Seth Altshuler, head coach of La Salle Prep. "He was a really technical, really calm and really balanced player. I have only seen a few players in high school in my coaching career with his awareness of positioning and his ability to control the pace of a game."

Whipple has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of the Pacific 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Whipple joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Johnny Rodas-Hills (2017-18, Lakeridge High School), Paul Seydel (2016-17, Lakeridge High School), Stuart Aeschliman (2015-16, West Salem High School), Gio Magana (2014-15, Hood River Valley High School) and Antonio Porreco (2013-14, Jesuit High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Whipple also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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

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