

## MOUNTAINSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 13, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Nedya Sawan of Mountainside High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Sawan is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountainside 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 Sawan as Oregon's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Sawan 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 for Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, 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-7 junior forward scored 24 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Mavericks (13-4-1) to the Class 6A state semifinals in the program's inaugural varsity campaign. Sawan was also the Class 6A Player of the Year and the Oregonian's State Player of the Year. She finished the season with seven multi-goal games, including three hat tricks.

Sawan has volunteered locally on behalf of Project Lemonade, which provides supplies to foster children. She has also donated her time as a special education teaching assistant and youth soccer referee. "Nedya is a threat around the goal at any time of the game," said Ben Durano, head coach of Sunset High. "Given her size, strength and speed, she is a handful to deal with. She can go right or left and oftentimes required double-teaming."

Sawan has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Portland beginning in the fall of 2020.

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.

Sawan joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sydney Collins (2017-18, Jesuit High School), Kaillen Fried (2016-17, Sherwood High School), Lucy Davidson (2015-16 & 2014-15, Scappoose High School) and Jill Farley (2013-14, Tualatin High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Sawan also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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