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

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Scott Gustafson of Ashland High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gustafson is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Ashland 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 Gustafson 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, Gustafson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 (2004-05, 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 6-foot, 160-pound senior midfielder recorded 11 goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Grizzlies (11-3-3) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection and Midwestern League Player of the Year, Gustafson was one of 23 players selected to participate in the 2003/2002 (birth year) U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program national training camp in January. He concluded his prep soccer career with 24 goals and 29 assists.

Gustafson has volunteered locally as a Unified Sports Coach for soccer at Ashland High. He has also donated his time as an organizer of his school's Grizz Pageant, which is a fundraiser to benefit the pre-natal intensive care unit at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford. "Scott is an excellent player," said Jason Burke, head coach of Willamette High School. "Technically, he is really good. He is fast and physical. He plays hard and has great sportsmanship on the field."

Gustafson 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 Washington.

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.

Gustafson joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Avery Whipple (2018-19, Corvallis High School), 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.

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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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