

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

CHICAGO (June 11, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Aidan Azavedo of Jesuit High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Azavedo is the seventh Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Azavedo 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, Azavedo 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 5-foot-9, 160-pound senior midfielder led the Crusaders to a 9-1-1 record during this past pandemic-abbreviated season. Azavedo scored three goals and passed for nine assists. The 2021 Metro League Player of the Year, he is a three-time All-State selection and a four-year starter who helped lead Jesuit to the 2018 Class 5A state championship.

A member of the Jesuit High Diversity Club, Azavedo has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research. He has also donated his time to the Providence Children's Health Center and as a camp counselor. "Speaking as an opposing coach, Aidan's ability to break down a defense with a pass or cross at any moment was always top of mind," said Monty Hawkins, head coach of Sherwood High. "What makes him special on the field is his inventiveness and creativity under pressure in tight situations, especially in the final third."

Azavedo has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He is taking a post-graduate year at the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Azavedo joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Scott Gustafson (2019-20, Ashland High School), Avery Whipple (2018-19, Corvallis High School), Johnny Rodas-Hills (2017-18, Lakeridge High School), and Paul Seydel (2016-17, Lakeridge High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Azavedo has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Azavedo is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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

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