

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

CHICAGO (June 16, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Nani Deperro** of **Summit High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Deperro is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Summit 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 Deperro 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, Deperro 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, 140-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Storm to a 17-0-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Deperro tallied 32 goals and 19 assists, including two goals and an assist in Summit's 6-0 win over West Linn High in the state title game. He compiled six goals and seven assists in Summit's five-game postseason run to the championship. The Class 6A Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 44 goals.

Deperro has volunteered locally at the Boys & Girls Club of Bend, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his school's Interact Club. "I have had to deal with Nani for three years and when I say 'deal with,' I mean it in a positive way," said Chris Thurley, head coach of Jesuit High School. "He's quick and all over the field. He's very hard to mark up and he's an excellent distributor."

Deperro has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Washington 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Deperro joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Aidan Azavedo (2020-21, Jesuit High School), Scott Gustafson (2019-20, Ashland High School), Avery Whipple (2018-19, Corvallis High School), and Johnny Rodas-Hills (2017-18, Lakeridge High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Deperro has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Deperro is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.