

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

CHICAGO (June 16, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Drew Pedersen** of **Jesuit High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Pedersen is the eighth 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 Pedersen 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, Pedersen joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior forward led the Crusaders to a 14-1-4 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Pedersen scored 26 goals and passed for 13 assists, including two goals and an assist in Jesuit High School's 4-0 win over Westview High School in the state title game. He netted six goals and recorded five assists in the Crusaders' five game postseason run to the championship. The Class 6A Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 54 goals and 27 assists.

Pedersen has volunteered locally with Meals on Wheels and as a school ambassador. He has also donated his time at the non-profit Portland After School Tennis and Education Center and as a youth soccer coach. "Drew is simply exceptional, period," said Jon Fresh, head coach of Westview High School. "He plays well beyond his years. He is unstoppable. His game is complete. If he's not scoring goals, he's assisting or creating opportunities for other players."

Pedersen has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Gonzaga University 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.

Pedersen joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nani Deperro (2021-22, Summit High School), Aidan Azavedo (2020-21, Jesuit High School), Scott Gustafson (2019-20, Ashland High School), and Avery Whipple (2018-19, Corvallis High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.