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

CHICAGO (June 20, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Abby Cox** of **Jesuit High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Cox is the eigth Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Cox as Oregon's best high school girls soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Aly Wagner (1997-98, Presentation High School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.) and Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-3 senior midfielder and forward scored 18 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (16-1) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals. The Class 6A Player of the Year, Cox was also the co-Player of the Year in the Metro League. A 2023 United Soccer Coaches Youth All-American selection based on play with her club team, the Portland Thorns, she participated in the High School All-American Game last fall.

A Jesuit High School student ambassador, Cox has volunteered locally at a soccer camp for underserved children and as a peer tutor. She has also donated her time as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit the Children's Cancer Association. "We were a fairly decent team, especially defensively and we had no answer for Abby," said Karl Granlund, head coach of Sherwood High School. "I spent the entire year telling people Abby Cox is the best player in Oregon. Even though Jesuit is so good at every position, it shouldn't take away from Abby being the best player."

Cox has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Texas Christian University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Cox joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ellie Felt (2022-23, Sunset High School), Lindsey Antonson (2021-22, Wilsonville High School), Abi Hoffman (2020-21, Barlow High School) and Callan Harrington (2019-20, Jesuit High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.