WOODINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 12, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Cooper Conley** of **Woodinville High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Conley as Washington's best high school boys soccer player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, M.D.) and Ransford Gyan (2022-23 & 2023-24, St. Benedict's Preparatory School, N.I.).

The 6-foot-4, 175-pound junior forward led the Falcons to a 20-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Conley scored 41 goals and passed for four assists, including all nine goals in Woodinville High School's four-game postseason run to the state title. He netted an overtime game-winner in the state semifinals and the winning goal in the state final in the waning moments of regulation. The KingCo Conference Offensive Player of the Year, he was also a Class 4A First Team All-State selection.

Conley has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and has also donated his time as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church congregation. "Cooper has one of the best first touches of any player I've seen in the 16 years I've been coaching at the high school level," said Ryan Johnson, head coach of Hazen High School. "He has a high level of anticipation and can either run in behind or bring the ball down with his feet."

Conley has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

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

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