

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Roderick Orellana-Lemus of Lincoln High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Orellana-Lemus is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Orellana-Lemus as Iowa'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, Orellana-Lemus joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, 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 (2004-04, 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-10, 170-pound senior defender scored six goals and passed for one assist this past season, leading the Railsplitters (13-4) to the Class 3A Substate championship game. A three-time First Team All-Conference selection, Orellana-Lemus was a 2018 Second Team All-State honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 31 goals and 14 assists.

Orellana-Lemus has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Roderick has been a major beast this year," said Derek Lounsberry, head coach of Des Moines East High School. "He has solidified Lincoln's back line into a team that is a major pain to break down. He sees things developing and puts other players in position."

A member of the Gifted and Talented program at Lincoln High School, Orellana-Lemus has maintained a weighted 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Missouri-Kansas City 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Orellana-Lemus joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jordy Triana-Vasquez (2017-18, Valley High School), Jack Dunn (2016-17, Bettendorf High School), Leroy Enzugusi (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), Adam Nicholson (2014-15, Iowa City High School) and Sam Graving (2013-14, Johnston High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Orellana-Lemus also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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 www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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