



Aidan Smith
United PDX Soccer Club
OYSA 2021 TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year

U.S. Youth TOPSoccer, the outreach program for soccer, is a nationwide community-based training program for all athletes with intellectual, emotional, and or physical disabilities. The program strives to provide soccer opportunities for players to develop, at their own pace, in a safe, fun, supportive, and inclusive environment.

Aidan Smith a Portland, OR high school player has been a buddy with the United PDX TopSoccer program since 2019 and has been selected as the 2021 Oregon Youth Soccer TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year. The TOPSoccer program pairs local area players with athletes in the TOPSoccer program so they can assist, guide, direct and teach the game of soccer in a fun safe learning environment. Throughout his tenure Aidan has become one of the TOPS players favorite buddies. In 2021 Aidan became the United PDX program's lead buddy, and now assists the coaches by leading the warm-up each practice and assisting other buddies by giving them helpful tips on navigating the buddy/player relationship. Aidan is a wonderful role model for both the players and buddies. Aidan received his TopSoccer coaching certificate in 2021 which enables him to help create buddy training materials for the United PDX club.

Aidan attends Jesuit High School where he is a sophomore and plays for the school's JV2 Gold soccer team. As an honor roll student and a team co-captain Aidan helped lead the team in assists in their undefeated 2021 season. Aidan is a natural leader who leads through his calm demeanor, intelligence, and strong work ethic seeks out challenges and new experiences to not only better himself but also his community. Aidan volunteers with TopSoccer because he wants to help provide an opportunity for all youth of all abilities to play the game he loves.

"I have had the pleasure of coaching Aiden Smith at Jesuit for the past two years on our JV2 Gold team. This past season he was one of two team captains and our primary leader. On the field, Aiden demonstrates a great understanding of the game and is a very skilled player. He led our team in assists (10) and helped lead our team to an undefeated 14-0 season. Off the field, Aiden is an exemplary student and peer. He is respectful of others, shows consideration to his teammates and fellow students, is an effective communicator, and possesses a strong work ethic. I have been fortunate to have someone like Aiden on my team."

-Keith Husby Jesuit High School-

"Aidan thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the players, their families and your community. Your willingness to share your love of the game with such an amazing group of athletes is a vivid example of serving others in your community. We appreciate you and are so very proud to have you as the Oregon 2021 TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year."

-OYSA Board and Staff-