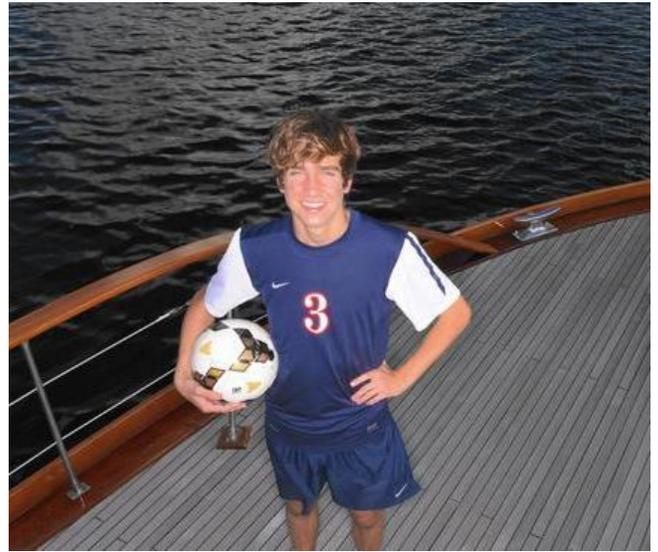


Oxbridge's Alec-Michael Petrizzi: 3A-2A-1A Player of the Year

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Alec-Michael Petrizzi found his niche this year for the ThunderWolves soccer team.

Used primarily on the left side last season, the sophomore was a shutdown defender and contributed two goals for the year as Oxbridge won the district title. Petrizzi took his game to another level this season, tallying 16 goals and 20 assists as a left midfielder.

"I think I helped the team more this year," Petrizzi said. "I didn't go forward as much last year because I was playing mostly in the back, but this year because I played in the midfield I got to attack a lot.

"I feel good that people recognized me for what I did this year," said Petrizzi, whose team lost in overtime in the regional semifinal to American Heritage-Delray. "I felt like when I had the ball that I could help the team more by attacking and we could score goals."

Oxbridge graduated five players from 2014's district title team; however, Petrizzi helped the team reach the District 13-2A final this year with a dramatic, last-second overtime goal against St. Andrew's.

"It was pretty close to my best goal ever," Petrizzi said. "I think we did pretty well as a team. We weren't really expected to go that far. We had a great team effort and we kept going until we lost."

Being left-footed was an asset for Petrizzi, who dished out most of his assists this season on free kicks.

"I guess it is an element of surprise because most people are right-footed," Petrizzi said. "I hope to play professionally one day. I hope to go to a good D-1 college soccer program and then progress from there."

Oxbridge Academy coach Laurie Calloway is impressed with Petrizzi.

"He's phenomenal," Calloway said. "He is one of the best left-sided players out there. He scored most of his goals from the left side. He led our team in assists. He is a natural footballer. We relied heavily on set pieces this season and he was a big part of that. He is already primed for a college soccer career and he is still growing."