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**OLATHE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 19, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Clay Stewart of Olathe South High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Stewart is the third Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe South 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 Stewart as Kansas'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 May, Stewart joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot, 165-pound senior midfielder and defender scored 12 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Falcons (11-5-1) to the Class 6A state tournament. Stewart is a two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection and a two-time Kansas City Star First Team All-Metro honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 16 goals and 18 assists.

Stewart has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor, a youth soccer coach, a teacher's aide at Chisholm Trail Middle School and at an animal shelter.

"Clay is one of the best all-around players that I have seen at the high school level," said Chris Graham, head coach of Olathe Northwest High. "Nothing he does is super-flashy, but everything he does is done extremely well. His importance to his team the last couple of years has been immeasurable."

Stewart has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic 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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Stewart joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Austin Clifton (2011-12, Northwest High School), Nick Besler (2010-11, Blue Valley West High School), Jon Kempin, (2009-10, Blue Valley North High School), Ethan Bauer (2008-09 Olathe South), and Coleton Henning (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Saint Thomas Aquinas) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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