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**OAK MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 14, 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 Chandler Stroupe of Oak Mountain High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Stroupe is the second Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Mountain 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 Stroupe as Alabama'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, Stroupe 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-2, 165-pound senior defender scored 13 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (21-4-1) to the Class 6A state championship game. Stroupe and the Oak Mountain defense allowed 11 goals all season, including just one in five state tournament games. The 2013 Birmingham Metro Coaches Player of the Year, he was a 2012 *Birmingham News* First Team All-State pick.

Stroupe has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee and as a counselor at a Vacation Bible School.

"You can put Chandler anywhere on the field and know the job will get done," said Joe Carter, head coach of Spain Park High. "He is such a complete player. He is competitive and very passionate about soccer and it shows."

Stroupe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama-Birmingham 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.

Stroupe joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jack Hopkins (2011-12, Vestavia Hills High School), Nathan Diehl (2010-11 & 2009-10, Mountain Brook High School), Chandler Hoffman (2008-09 & 2007-08, Oak Mountain High School), and Paul Willoughby (2006-07, Grissom) 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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