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**SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 14, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Michael Kluver of Skutt Catholic High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Kluver is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Skutt Catholic 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 Kluver as Nebraska'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, Kluver 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-4, 180-pound senior goalkeeper led the SkyHawks to a 19-1 record entering the Class B state final against South Sioux City High, scheduled for May 13. Kluver had allowed 11 goals and recorded 12 shutouts in 20 games. A 2012 All-Nebraska First Team selection by the *Omaha World Herald* and *Lincoln Star*, he entered the state final with 33 shutouts in his prep soccer career.

Kluver has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of the area Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, he has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity, the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"If you gave me Michael Kluver, I could get 10 guys out of study hall and be a Top-10 team," said Mike Bailey, head coach of Elkhorn South High. "He is a special player and a great kid. He can dominate a game as a goalkeeper which is rarely seen."

Kluver has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Creighton University 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.

Kluver joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Gabe Garbin (2011-12, Lincoln East High School), Jake Linden (2010-11, Creighton Prep), Taylor Reeves (2009-10, Creighton Preparatory School), Michael Burke (2008-09, Skutt Catholic High School), Seth Neben (2007-08, Lincoln Southwest), and Kyle Deremer (2006-07, Millard North) 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.

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