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**ALIEF ELSIK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Kayode George of Alief Elsik High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. George is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Alief Elsik 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 George as Texas'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, George 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 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior forward scored 26 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Rams (21-3-3) to the Class 5A state semifinals. The 2013 Houston Chronicle Player of the Year, George is a two-time Class 5A First Team All-State selection and was a 2012 All-Region VI honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He concluded his prep soccer career with 77 goals and 36 assists.

George has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth counselor and coach in addition to donating his time as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church.

"George has everything you look for in an attacking player," said John Lawhon, head coach of Klein High. "He can take guys on 1v1, he can score and he can distribute. He is a difference-maker."

George has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Jefferson College in Missouri 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.

George joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Tony Santibanez (2011-12, Plano Senior High School), Aaron Simmons (2010-11, Mansfield High School), Zach Barnes (2009-10, Marcus), Dillon Powers (2008-09, Plano Senior High School), Sam Garza (2007-08, Marcus), and Corben Bone (2006-07, Plano) 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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