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**REITZ MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Michael Riedford of Reitz Memorial High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Riedford is the first Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Reitz Memorial 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 Riedford as Indiana'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, Riedford 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, 150-pound senior forward scored 36 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Tigers (17-2-5) to the Class 2A state semifinals. A two-time Indiana Soccer Coaches Association First Team All-State selection, Riedford was the Evansville Courier & Press All-Metro Player of the Year. A participant in December's High School All-American Game in Downingtown, Pa., he concluded his prep soccer career with 68 goals and 47 assists.

Riedford has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He received Honor Monograms— recognition bestowed upon Reitz Memorial students who achieve high honors or honors for three of the four yearly grading periods—and he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Michael Riedford's game was at a completely different level this season," said Jason Watkins, head coach of Harrison High. "He was an extremely dangerous player on the field and could take a game over and completely change the complexion of it. He did it multiple times this season not only against weaker competition but more importantly against outstanding competition."

Riedford has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Indiana University this fall and recently graduated Reitz Memorial High early to begin attending spring semester collegiate classes.

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.

Riedford joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Mike Galullo (2012-13, North Central High School), Femi Hollinger-Janzen (2011-12, Bethany Christian High School), Eriq Zavaleta (2010-11, Westfield High School), A.J. Corrado, (2009-10, Zionsville Community High School), Harrison Petts (2008-09, Zionsville Community), Mitch Day (2007-08, Memorial), and Robby Lynch (2006-2007, Carmel) 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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