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**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 James Murphy of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Murphy is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Scotch Plains-Fanwood 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 Murphy as New Jersey'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, Murphy 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 sophomore midfielder scored 22 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Raiders (18-3-1) to the North 2, Group 4 semifinals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Murphy was the Courier News Player of the Year and a Newark Star-Ledger First Team All-State honoree. He concluded his sophomore year with career totals of 27 goals and 29 assists.

Murphy has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of his high school's Student Athlete Leadership Team, he has volunteered locally with Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach.

"Scotch Plains' success runs through James Murphy," said Eric Shaw, head coach of Westfield High. "Playing in the middle of the park allowed him to be the general. With very good vision and great technical ability, James was always dangerous."

Murphy will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Murphy joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brian Costa (2012-13, Pingry School), Christiano Francois (2011-12, St. Benedict's Prep.), Dan Metzger (2010-11, Holmdel High School), Jon Aguirre, (2009-10, Madison High School), Rafael Diaz (2008-09, Morris Hills), Matt Kassel (2007-08, Bridgewater-Raritan), and Brayan Martinez (2006-2007, West Orange) 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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