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MASON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 Jack Clark of Mason High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Clark is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mason 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 Clark as Ohio'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, Clark 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-8, 140-pound senior forward led the Comets to a 22-0-1 record and the Division I state title this past season. Clark scored 31 goals and passed for eight assists, including scoring the lone goal in both the state semifinals and state championship game. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer, Clark was an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and participated in December's High School All-American Game in Downingtown, Pa. He concluded his prep soccer career with 73 goals and 24 assists.

Clark has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. He organized a clothing drive for survivors of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and has volunteered locally at the Mason Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk. He has also donated his time on behalf of the US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program, serving young athletes with disabilities.

"In my 22 years of coaching high school soccer in Cincinnati, Jack Clark is one of the most dangerous players I have seen in the area," said Rick Cooper, head coach of Lakota West High. "He is simply a finisher. All he needs is one or two opportunities and he will score a goal."

Clark has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Cincinnati 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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sam Bascom (2012-13, Madeira High School), Matt Foldesy (2011-12, St. Ignatius High School), Wil Trapp (2010-11 & 2009-10, Lincoln High School), Matt Wiet (2008-09, Worthington Kilbourne), Nick Blevins (2007-08, Bloom Carroll), and Lamar Skeeter (2006-2007, Fairmont) 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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