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**SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Lee Wynja of Sioux Falls Christian High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Wynja is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sioux Falls Christian 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 Wynja as South Dakota'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, Wynja 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, 170-pound junior midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Chargers (9-2-3) to the state semifinals. The Soccer605.com Small Program Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Wynja was a First Team All-State selection by the South Dakota Soccer Association. He concluded his junior year with career totals of 43 goals and 18 assists.

Wynja has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the school band, he has volunteered locally at Children's Care Hospital & School and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Lee Wynja did everything for his team," said Mike Grossman, head coach of O'Gorman High. "They graduated 11-12 good players from their team the year before and Lee did everything for them and they kept winning."

Wynja will begin his senior 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.

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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