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**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Chris Holmes of Catholic High School for Boys as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Holmes is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Catholic High School for Boys.

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 Holmes as Arkansas'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, Holmes 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-11, 160-pound junior midfielder has led the Rockets to a 15-2-1 record entering the Class 7A state tournament, scheduled to begin May 15. Holmes has scored 14 goals and passed for 13 assists through 18 games. A two-time Class 7A First Team All-State selection, he missed Little Rock Catholic's first four games of the season while playing for the U.S. Youth Soccer Region III Olympic Development Program team in Argentina.

Holmes has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and a peer tutor.

"Chris Holmes is a very smooth, skillful and versatile player," said Robert Parr, the director of coaching for the Arkansas State Soccer Association. "He has tremendous upside potential as well."

Holmes 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.

Holmes joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Wes Carson (2012-13, SoutHigh Schoolide High School), Nelson Landaverde (2011-12, Springdale High School), William Hidalgo (2010 - 11, Cabot High School), John Lung'aho (2009-10, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet), Taylor Hart (2008-09 Conway High School), Stephen Maxwell (2007-08, Conway), and Jeff Chacko (2006-2007, Catholic High School for Boys) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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