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**J.L. MANN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Tyler Rider of J.L. Mann Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Rider is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from J.L. Mann Academy.

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 Rider as South Carolina'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, Rider 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 senior defender and midfielder has led the Patriots to a 23-1 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament first round against Nation Ford High, scheduled for May 13. Rider scored 11 goals and passed for 14 assists through 24 games. A two-time All-Region selection, Rider moved from central midfield to sweeper early in the regular season. He is ranked as the nation's No. 124 recruit in the Class of 2014 by College Soccer News.

Rider has maintained a weighted 4.68 GPA in the classroom. A science and math tutor at J.L. Mann, he has volunteered locally with Meals on Wheels, the Special Olympics and as a Bible Study group leader.

"Tyler making the switch from center mid to sweeper to organize the defense has been vital to the team's success this season," said J.L. Mann coach Brian Dender.

Rider has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Clemson University 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.

Rider joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Players of the Year Koty Millard (2012-13, Cardinal Newman School), Nestor Jaramillo (2011-12, Cardinal Newman High School), Robert Beebe (2010 - 11, Pinewood Preparatory School), Emmett Lunceford (2009-10, Irmo), and Enzo Martinez (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-2007, Northwestern High School 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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