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## Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

## SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Carter Johnson of Skyview High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Johnson as Washington'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, Johnson 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, NJ.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11, 160-pound senior forward has led the Storm to a 14-0-3 record entering a bi-district contest scheduled for May 15, which will determine Skyview's seeding for the Class 4A state tournament. Johnson has scored 24 goals and passed for seven assists through 17 games. The 2013 Greater St. Helen's League MVP and The Columbian's All-Region Player of the Year, Johnson scored a pair of goals in the 2012 Class 4A state championship game as a sophomore in a 3-2 victory for Skyview over Central Kitsap High.

Johnson has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Skyview High Science, Math and Technology Program, he has volunteered locally at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver, as a peer tutor and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Make-A-Wish America.

"Carter Johnson always creates problems for us," said Roland Minder, head coach of Camas High. "He is physical when that is an advantage, but he's also a wily player, sitting off the back shoulder of a defender and timing runs on free kicks and crosses perfectly to get on the finishing end. He's the one player that Skyview cannot be without."

Johnson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Chico State University in Chico, Calif., this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Johnson joins Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Morris (2011-12, Mercer Island High School), Aaron Kovar (2010 – 11, Garfield High School), Nick Palodichuk (2009-10, Camas), Michael Harris (2008-09 Shorecrest High School), Brent Richards (2007-08, Camas), and Brandon Kelley (2006-2007, Snohomish) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.