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**SOUTH KENT SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2015) — In its 30<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 Mickey Watson of South Kent School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Watson is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kent 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 Watson as Connecticut'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, Watson 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, 185-pound senior defender scored three goals, passed for four assists and anchored a defense that recorded 11 shutouts this past season, leading the Cardinals (17-5) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class B Tournament championship game. Watson is a two-time Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association First Team All-State selection and a two-time Western New England Prep School Soccer Association All-Star.

Watson has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. The Head Prefect at South Kent, he has volunteered locally at a food bank and as a youth soccer coach.

"Mickey Watson is the heart and soul of South Kent," said Jon Moodey, head coach of the Berkshire (Mass.) School. "He is the engine that makes his team go. Though his soccer skills are impressive, his positive attitude and tireless work ethic make him so valuable." Watson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Loyola University Maryland beginning 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.

Watson joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Players of the Year Matheus Souza (2013-14, Conrad High School), Isaac Normesinu (2012-13, Hotchkiss School), Zach Zurita (2011-12, Bunnell High School), Kevin Michalak (2010-11, Farmington High School), Kofi Agyapong (2009-10, St. Luke's School), Colin Bradley (2008-09, Avon Old Farms School), Pat Boucher (2007-08, Cromwell High School), and Ryan Kinne (2006-07, Naugatuck 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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