

**Contact: Kelly Magnus (312-729-3622)**

**APPOQUINIMINK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Sam Jester of Appoquinimink High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jester is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Appoquinimink 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 Jester as Delaware'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, Jester 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, 165-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 21 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Jaguars (16-1) to the Division I state semifinals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Jester participated in the High School All-American Game in North Carolina in December. The 2014 News Journal Boys Soccer Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 75 goals and 43 assists.

Jester has maintained a 3.12 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Sam Jester is a very good player and helped his team do things the program has never done before," said Scott Mosier, head coach of the Salesianum School. "He has a knack for being in the right place and finishing his opportunities."

Jester has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at New Jersey Institute of Technology 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.

Jester joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Players of the Year Dylan Huber (2013-14, Salesianum School), Hunter Dann (2012-13, Salesianum School), Matt Hogsten (2011-12, Dover High School), Nick Dirienzo (2010-11, Charter School of Wilmington), Andrew O'Malley, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Salesianum School), Matt Margiotta (2007-08, Salesianum School), and Matt Marcin (2006-07, Charter School of Wilmington) 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).

###