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**TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sam Stockton of Trinity High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Stockton is the sixth Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity 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 Stockton as Kentucky'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, Stockton 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5, 135-pound senior midfielder scored 14 goals and passed for 21 assists this past season, leading the Shamrocks (21-3) to the state quarterfinals. Also the Kentucky Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer award-winner, Stockton has competed with the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team and is a two-time First Team All-State selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 41 goals and 87 assists.

Stockton has maintained an A average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, Stockton has volunteered locally on behalf of the Kosair Children's Hospital Foundation and as a member of the Trinity Ambassador program.

"Sam dominated every game we played," said Dale Helfrich, head coach of Trinity High. "And he often times did it while being double-teamed defensively."

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

Two-time winner Stockton joins Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Chris Hubbard (2012-13, Trinity High School), Neil Henley (2011-12, St. Xavier High School), Oliver Brown (2010-11, St. Xavier High School), Lepe Seetane (2009-10, Trinity High School), Kevin Bick (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Xavier High School), and Josh Lipka (2006-07, Lexington Catholic 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.

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