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**DEERING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Stephen Ochan of Deering High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Ochan is the first Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Deering 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 Ochan as Maine'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, Ochan 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, 181-pound senior midfielder scored six goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Rams (13-2-1) to the Western Class A semifinals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Ochan was also named Southwestern Maine Athletic Association Offensive Player of the Year and Western Maine Board of Soccer Officials Player of the Year.

Ochan has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. President of his senior class, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and youth soccer programs.

"Ochan stands out because he controls play at both ends of the field," said Ben Deschene, head coach at Marshwood High. "He dominates the game in every aspect. Everything Deering did ran through him."

Ochan remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Ochan joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Players of the Year Wyatt Omsberg (2013-14, Scarborough High School), Matt Saunders (2012-13, Lawrence High School), Robby Lentine (2011-12, Windham High School), Fazal Nabi (2010-11, Portland High School), Gabe Hoffman-Johnson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Falmouth High School), Oliver Blum (2007-08, Greely High School), and Jordan Hale (2006-07, Falmouth 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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