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**EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 DeJuan Jones of East Lansing High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from East Lansing 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 Jones as Michigan'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, Jones 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-9, 155-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Trojans to a 24-2 record and a second straight Division II state championship this past season. Jones scored 25 goals and passed for 15 assists, netting the game-winning, overtime goal in the state final. He tallied 11 goals and seven assists in East Lansing's seven-game postseason run to the title. The 2014 Michigan Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer award-winner, Jones was an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He concluded his prep soccer career with 66 goals and 31 assists.

Jones has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Black Student Union at East Lansing High, he has volunteered locally as a child-care provider at his church and as part of multiple community-service projects in association with the Greater Lansing chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

"DeJuan Jones was great this past year. He was huge in East Lansing's success," said Brian Guggemos, head coach of Okemos High. "What made him so special was that he scored goals at the biggest moments."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Michigan State 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Players of the Year Alec Lasinski (2013-14, Skyline High School), Dewey Lewis (2012-13, Rockford High School), Zach Carroll (2011-12, Grand Blanc High School), Dzenan Catic (2010-11, East Kentwood High School), Soony Saad, (2009-10, Dearborn High School), Kevin Cope (2008-09, Salem High School), and Casey Townsend (2007-08 & 2006-07, Traverse City West) 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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