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**LEE'S SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Dalton Souder of Lee's Summit High School** as its **2014-15 Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Souder is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lee's Summit 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 Souder as Missouri'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, Souder 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 6-foot-2 senior defender and midfielder led the Tigers to a 21-3 record and the Class 4 state title this past season. Souder scored 15 goals and passed for eight assists, anchoring a defense that recorded 11 shutouts. Selected as the Class 4 Defensive Player of the Year by the Missouri Soccer Coaches Association, he was a two-time First Team All-State honoree and participated in the High School All-American Game in North Carolina in December.

Souder has maintained a 3.36 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Dalton Souder really made his team go," said Chris Lawson, head coach of Rockhurst High. "His approach to leading, contributing and buying into whatever role was asked made others around him better."

Souder has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Furman University in South Carolina 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.

Souder joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Players of the Year Keith Grieshaber (2013-14, Marquette High School), Tommy Barlow (2012-13, Chaminade College Preparatory School), Derek Schrick (2011-12, Rockhurst High School), Alec Cochran (2010-11, Christian Brothers College High School), Adnan Gabeljic (2009-10, Mehlville High School), Alex Sweetin (2008-09, Rockhurst), Will Bruin (2007-08, De Smet Jesuit), and Mike Roach (2006-07, Chaminade College Preparatory 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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