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**ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 T.J. Butzke of St. Anthony's High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Butzke is the first Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Anthony's 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 Butzke as New York'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, Butzke 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-6, 145-pound senior midfielder scored nine goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Friars (18-3-1) to their second consecutive Catholic High School Athletic Association state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Butzke was also named First Team All-State and First Team All-Long Island.

Butzke has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A member of the DECA club, he has volunteered feeding the homeless and assisting physically challenged youth in the community.

"Butzke is a great distributor and a great finisher [and] he can beat you in several different ways," said Nick Gallagher, head coach at St. John the Baptist High. "He's tricky on the ball, with good vision, and he has a constant motor that never stops."

Butzke has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Boston University 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.

Butzke joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Players of the Year Dylan Klein (2013-14, Carle Place High School), Jeff Medina (2012-13, Brentwood High School), Dakota Edwards (2011-12, Sayville High School), Timothy Parker (2010-11, Hicksville High School), Alex Bramall, (2009-10, Newburgh Free Academy), Brian Rogers (2008-09, Bronxville), Will Ogden (2007-08, Byram Hills), and Wilber Bonilla (2006-07, Brentwood) 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).

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