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**COPLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 Chris Brennan of Copley High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Brennan is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Copley 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 Brennan as Ohio'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, Brennan 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, 170-pound junior forward scored 23 goals and passed for 14 assists this past season, leading the Indians (20-1-1) to the Division I state semifinals. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer winner, Brennan is a two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and the 2014 Cleveland.com Player of the Year. He concluded his junior year with 48 goals and 27 assists in his prep soccer career.

Brennan has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Copley High student council, he plays trumpet in the school marching and symphonic bands. He has volunteered locally as a camp counselor and youth soccer coach in addition to participating in two service-mission trips to the Dominican Republic.

"Chris Brennan is a tremendous athlete with a good mix between power and technique, something you do not see often in high school soccer," said Chris Dore, head coach of Avon High and the Director of Coaching with Brennan's club team, the Challenger Crew Juniors. "He can score in many ways, but he also likes to get his teammates involved."

Brennan will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Brennan joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jack Clark (2013-14, Mason High School), Sam Bascom (2012-13, Madeira High School), Matt Foldesy (2011-12, St. Ignatius High School), Wil Trapp (2010-11 & 2009-10, Lincoln High School), Matt Wiet (2008-09, Worthington Kilbourne), Nick Blevins (2007-08, Bloom Carroll), and Lamar Skeeter (2006-07, Fairmont) 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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