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**SHEA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Leandro Alves of Shea High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Alves is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Shea 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 Alves as Rhode Island'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, Alves 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-7 senior forward scored 29 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Raiders (16-2) to the Division I state championship game. An All-New England selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Alves was a Providence Journal First Team All-State honoree in his lone season of high school soccer.

Alves has maintained a 3.32 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor at his church and as a youth soccer coach.

"Leandro Alves did quite a bit on the field," said Mike Stinton, head coach of Portsmouth High. "He has speed, he can score and he can set up his teammates. He could read the game very well. He has more of a soccer sense than other players."

Alves has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Dean College in Massachusetts 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.

Alves joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Players of the Year Komla Dogbey (2013-14, Hope High School), Dan Apajee (2012-13, La Salle Academy), Colin Patch (2011-12, La Salle Academy), Marcos Ugarte (2010-11, Providence Country Day), Nick Dubee, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Chariho High School), and Brett Uttley (2007-08 & 2006-07, North Kingstown) 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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