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**SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Lee Wynja of Sioux Falls Christian High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Wynja is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sioux Falls Christian 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 Wynja as South Dakota'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, Wynja 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 170-pound senior midfielder scored 24 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Chargers (10-2-2) to the Class A state championship game. A two-time Soccer605.com Class A Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Wynja was a two-time First Team All-State selection by the South Dakota Soccer Association. He concluded his prep soccer career with 67 goals and 31 assists.

Wynja has maintained a 4.03 weighted GPA in the classroom. A guitarist in his church band, he has volunteered locally at Children's Care Hospital & School and has donated his time to multiple community-service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Sioux Falls Christian had other weapons, but Lee seemed to make them go," said Jory Wipf, head coach of James Valley Christian High. "He set up their other scores and could change the game without scoring himself, though he did plenty of that, too."

Wynja has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Northwestern College in Iowa 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.

Two-time winner Wynja remains the Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year award winner.

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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