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**SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Aiman Ginawi of South Burlington High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Ginawi is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Ginawi as Vermont'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, Ginawi 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-11, 160-pound senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Rebels (16-1) to the Division I state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Ginawi was also named the Burlington Free Press Player of the Year.

Ginawi has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth instructor for the Islamic Society of Vermont.

"As a midfielder, he's dangerous at all times," said Scott Mosher, head coach at Essex High. "He's electrifying when the ball is at his feet. He's like a chess player who is always a move or two ahead of everyone else."

Ginawi remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Ginawi joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zack Evans (2013-14, Champlain Valley Union High School), Shane Haley (2012-13, Champlain Valley Union High School), Jack Shea (2011-12, U-32 High School), Paul Bianchi (2010-11, Essex High School), Andrew Mercier, (2009-10, South Burlington High School), Rob Cole (2008-09, South Burlington), Tyler Macnee (2007-08, Champlain Valley Union), and Andy Borah (2006-07, Champlain Valley Union) 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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