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**BOB JONES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 11, 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 Eduvie Ikoba of Bob Jones High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Ikoba is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bob Jones 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 Ikoba as Alabama'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, Ikoba 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 6-foot-4, 195-pound senior forward had led the Patriots to a 20-3-2 record and a berth in the Class 7A state semifinals at the time of his selection. Ikoba scored 33 goals and passed for 12 assists through 25 games. A two-time All-Conference selection, Ikoba moved to Alabama from Iowa before his junior year of high school. He entered the state semifinals with 85 goals and 27 assists in his prep soccer career.

Ikoba has maintained a weighted 4.2 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth bible study leader and as a youth soccer coach.

"The difference in our (regular season) game against Bob Jones was Eduvie Ikoba," said Kevin de Lange, head coach of Davidson High. "I had to adjust my game plan in order to try to contain him. His intelligence moving around the back four gave us problems and he created opportunities for his teammates."

Ikoba will attend Dartmouth College, where he will play soccer 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.

Ikoba joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake Rufe (2013-14, Grissom High School), Chandler Stroupe (2012-13, Oak Mountain High School), Jack Hopkins (2011-12, Vestavia Hills High School), Nathan Diehl (2010-11 & 2009-10, Mountain Brook High School), Chandler Hoffman (2008-09 & 2007-08, Oak Mountain High School), and Paul Willoughby (2006-07, Grissom High School) 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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