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**SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA 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 Musa Morris of Sandra Day O'Connor High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sandra Day O'Connor 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 Morris as Arizona'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, Morris 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, 150-pound junior midfielder scored 16 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Eagles (15-3-2) to the Division I state championship game. The 2015 Arizona Tribune All-Arizona Big School Player of the Year, Morris is a two-time First Team All-State selection and the 2015 Section IV Player of the Year. He concluded his junior year with 47 goals and 36 assists in his prep soccer career.

Morris has maintained a weighted 3.84 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with his church's youth group and as a youth soccer coach. He also completed a service-mission trip to Mexico, where he helped build houses.

"Musa Morris' technical skills paired with his pace of play made him a nightmare for most defenses," said Brock Heykoop, head coach of Pinnacle High. "Their team would not have had the playoff run that they had without him."

Morris has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Portland beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Morris joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Players of the Year Adam Mosharrafa (2013-14, Brophy College Preparatory), Mason Robertson (2012-13, Pinnacle High School), Danny Arrubla (2011-12, Hamilton High School), Riggs Lennon (2010-11, Brophy College Preparatory), George Malki (2009-10, Pinnacle High School), Nick Ayers (2008-09, Brophy College Preparatory), Temi Molinar (2007-08, Brophy College Preparatory), and Kyle Ciliento (2006-07, Pinnacle 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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