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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 Chris Holmes of Catholic High School for Boys as its 2014-15 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Holmes is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Catholic High School for Boys.

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 Holmes as Arkansas'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, Holmes 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11, 165-pound senior midfielder had led the Rockets to a 12-2-1 record at the time of his selection. Holmes scored nine goals and passed for 17 assists through 15 games. A two-time Class 7A First Team All-State selection, he is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region III Olympic Development Program team.

Holmes has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and a youth soccer coach.

"The thing about Chris Holmes is that there are no real weaknesses that stand out," said DJ Beeler, head coach of Springdale High. "He is extremely well-rounded as a player. He is the type of player you could stick on any team and he would find a way to make that team better."

Holmes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Central Arkansas 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 Holmes joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Wes Carson (2012-13, South Side High School), Nelson Landaverde (2011-12, Springdale High School), William Hidalgo (2010-11, Cabot High School), John Lung'aho (2009-10, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School), Taylor Hart (2008-09, Conway High School), Stephen Maxwell (2007-08, Conway High School), and Jeff Chacko (2006-07, Catholic High School for Boys) 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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