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GRANITE BAY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Corban Anderson of Granite Bay High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Anderson is the first Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Granite Bay 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 Anderson as California'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, Anderson 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, 165-pound senior midfielder scored six goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Grizzlies (19-2) to the Sac Joaquin Section Division I Tournament semifinals. The two-time Sierra Foothill League MVP, Anderson was named the West Team Most Valuable Player at the 2014 High School All-American Game. He concluded his prep career with 16 goals and 22 assists.

Anderson has maintained a weighted 3.93 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on a fundraising campaign to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and donated his time to homeless outreach with San Francisco City Impact.

"Corban Anderson is a natural, but he's also a dedicated athlete," said Alex Butterfield, head coach of Nevada Union High. "His play was never about individual glory. He was able to elevate the players around him and orchestrate the team like a conductor."

Anderson graduated from high school in December and has already enrolled at the University of Washington, 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade California Boys Soccer Players of the Year Abu Danladi (2013-14, Dunn School), Cristian Roldan (2012-13, El Rancho High School), Ema Boateng (2011-12, Cate School), Seth Casiple (2010-11, Rocklin High School), Reed Williams (2009-10, Corona del Mar High School), Adam Jahn (2008-09 & 2007-08, Jesuit High School), and Jalil Anibaba (2006-07, Davis Senior 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.