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Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

IOWA CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 Adam Nicholson of Iowa City High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Nicholson is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Iowa City 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 Nicholson as Iowa'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, Nicholson 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 defender and forward had led the Little Hawks to an 11-1 record at the time of his selection. Nicholson scored four goals and passed for one assist through 12 games. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team, he is a three-time First Team All-Conference selection and was a 2014 Class 3A Second Team All-State honoree.

Nicholson has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. He started his own lawn-care business and has volunteered locally with Christmas Buddies, shopping and wrapping presents for severely handicapped individuals. He also helps care for his older cousin, Ben, who is intellectually and physically disabled and lives with Nicholson and his family.

"The best player in the state has to be Adam Nicholson," said Steve Robertson, head coach of Kennedy High. "He may be the best center back in the state—he has size, strength, skill and speed and is great in the air—and he can play multiple positions and be the best player in those positions, too."

Nicholson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Drake University 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.

Nicholson joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sam Graving (2013-14, Johnston High School), Mueng Sunday (2012-13, Iowa City West High School), Eric Williams (2011-12, Valley High School), Gabe Christianson (2010-11, Kennedy High School), Erik Boyer (2009-10, Kennedy High School), Husref Jupic (2008-09, Hoover High School), Hunter Kennedy (2007-08, Washington High School), and Charlie Schwartz (2006-07, Bettendorf 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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