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**TERRY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Wanner Paiz of Terry High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Paiz is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Terry 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 Paiz as Mississippi'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, Paiz 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, 160-pound senior midfielder scored 31 goals and passed for 18 assists this past season, leading the Bulldogs (16-1-3) to the second round of the Class 6A state tournament. A two-time Clarion Ledger First Team All-State selection, Paiz was named a South All-Star by the Mississippi Association of Coaches. He concluded his prep soccer career with 47 goals and 33 assists.

Paiz has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Wanner was an elite player on an unexceptional team and had to make things happen himself," said Tyler Wade, head coach of Clinton High. "Not only does he score a lot of goals for his high school team, but he also plays center back for his club team and excels no matter where he is on the field."

Paiz has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Hinds Community College 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.

Paiz joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Players of the Year Ridge Brohaugh (2013-14, Madison Central High School), Eli Troutman (2012-13, Ocean Springs High School), Jake Files (2011-12, Clinton High School), Derrick "Ducky" Troutman (2010-11, Ocean Springs High School), Jarred Arde (2009-10, Gulfport High School), Dillon Walker (2008-09, Pearl High School), Chris Williams (2007-08, Pearl High School), and Barry Prather (2006-07, Clinton 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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