

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**PAPILLION-LA VISTA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Cullen Fisch of Papillion-La Vista South as its 2014-15 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Fisch is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Papillion-La Vista South.

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 Fisch as Nebraska'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, Fisch 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 5-foot-11, 185-pound senior goalkeeper had led the Titans to a 15-4 record and a possible state-tournament berth pending the outcome of district-round postseason play. Fisch recorded 11 shutouts and 95 saves while allowing just nine goals through 19 games. He was a 2014 Omaha World Herald Second Team All-Nebraska honoree and a Lincoln Journal Star Honorable Mention All-State selection.

Fisch has maintained a weighted 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Papillion-LaVista Zoo Academy, he has volunteered locally at the Henry Doorly Zoo and as a youth soccer coach.

"Just knowing you have someone back there like Cullen who could win you a game without ever scoring a goal is a huge advantage," said Sean Murphy, head coach of Fremont High. "Other teams have more offensive firepower than Papio South, therefore they can win a lot of high-scoring games. Papio South just doesn't score the same way. I love having goalies that can win you 1-0 games."

Fisch has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Fort Hays State University in Kansas 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.

Fisch joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Michael Jaime (2013-14, Omaha South High School), Michael Kluver (2012-13, Skutt Catholic High School), Gabe Garbin (2011-12, Lincoln East High School), Jake Linden (2010-11, Creighton Prep), Taylor Reeves (2009-10, Creighton Prep), Michael Burke (2008-09, Skutt Catholic High School), Seth Neben (2007-08, Lincoln Southwest High School), and Kyle Deremer (2006-07, Millard North 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.

###