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ALTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 Christian Bain of Alta High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Bain is the sixth Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Alta 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 Bain as Utah'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, Bain 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, 135-pound senior midfielder had led the Hawks to a 13-1-1 record at the time of his selection. Bain scored seven goals and passed for nine assists through 15 games. He was a First Team All-State selection by both the Deseret News and the Salt Lake Tribune in 2014.

Bain has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community and an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, he has volunteered locally on behalf of senior citizen centers, a food bank and a forest-restoration initiative.

"Bain's biggest strength is that he has no weaknesses," said Dave Wigham, head coach at Viewmont High. "He can play defense, he can play up top, and he knows the game so well."

Bain will attend Brigham Young University this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Bain joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Players of the Year Lucas Cawley (2013-14, Viewmont High School), Matthew Coffey (2012-13, Brighton High School), Taylor Fankhauser (2011-12, Brighton High School), Derek Boggs (2010-11, Alta High School), Thomas Loomis (2009-10, Brighton High School), James Rogers (2008-09, Highland High School), Jake Hustedt (2007-08, Jordan High School), and Jake Cook (2006-07, East 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.