

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**TIMBERLINE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE IDAHO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 11, 2016) — In its 31<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Alain Murhula of Timberline High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Murhula is the second Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Timberline 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 Murhula as Idaho'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, Murhula 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 6-foot, 165-pound senior forward led the Wolves to a 19-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Murhula scored 22 goals and passed for six assists, netting 12 goals in six postseason games. A transfer from Borah High, he was the Idaho High School State Soccer Coaches Association's State Player of the Year.

Murhula has maintained a weighted 3.29 GPA in the classroom. A refugee from the Congo who moved to Idaho in the summer of 2014, he worked a job the entire season to help support his family and has volunteered locally on multiple community-service activities through his church.

"Alain Murhula was ridiculous at the end of the season, especially," said Mike Darrow, head coach of Boise High. "He was the best player on the field each time he played."

Murhula remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Murhula joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Players of the Year Josh Szuch (2014-15, Borah High School), Tyson Fox (2013-14, Rocky Mountain High School), Timmy Mueller (2012-13, Post Falls High School), Bryson Pavel (2011-12, Boise High School), Michael Soderlund (2010-11, Timberline High School), Justin Hill, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Boise High School), Nick Sykes (2007-08, Mountain View High School), and Mike McLeod (2006-07, Boise 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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