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**WHEATON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Ty Seager of Wheaton Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Seager is the first Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Wheaton Academy.

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 Seager as Illinois'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, Seager 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 165-pound senior forward scored 34 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Warriors to the Class 3A Wheaton Academy Sectional championship game. The Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association's State Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 108 goals and 45 assists.

Seager has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. A member of the J. Kyle Braid Leadership Program, which promotes peer-leadership skills, he has completed a service mission trip to Brazil in association with his church.

"This year, Ty still had to score goals but he also had to set up goals for others and be involved with some of their possession," said Ryan Estabrook, head coach of Geneva High. "His scoring output dropped off, but he definitely became a better player this year."

Seager has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Northwestern 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.

Two-time winner Seager joins Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Players of the Year Mike Catalano (2013-14, Lake Park High School), Brandon Medina (2012-13, St. Ignatius College Prep.), Drew Conner (2011-12, Cary-Grove High School), Vince Cicciarelli (2010-11, Peoria Notre Dame High School), Bryan Ciesiulka, (2009-10, Neuqua Valley High School), Tim Zimmer (2008-09, Naperville Central High School), John Shakon (2007-08, Hinsdale Central High School), and Anthony Colaizzi (2006-07, Warren Township 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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