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**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 11, 2016) — In its 31th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Lucas Bartlett of Saint Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Bartlett is the seventh Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Thomas Aquinas 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 Bartlett as Kansas'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, Bartlett 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-2, 170-pound senior defender scored nine goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Saints (18-3) to the Class 5A state championship game. Bartlett also anchored a defense that recorded 13 shutouts. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, he was a two-time Class 5A First Team All-State honoree.

Bartlett has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a garage sale to benefit his former elementary school and as a youth soccer coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of Catholic Charities.

"Lucas Bartlett calmly led and managed a defense that was very difficult to penetrate, much less score on," said Rick Enna, head coach of St. James Academy. "If that wasn't difficult enough to play against, we had to worry about Bartlett's ability to take the ball up the field in transition and dominate in the air on set pieces."

Bartlett has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Loyola University Chicago 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.

Bartlett joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Austin Halsey (2014-15, Washburn Rural High School), Steven Enna (2013-14, St. James Academy), Clay Stewart (2012-13, Olathe South High School), Austin Clifton (2011-12, Northwest High School), Nick Besler (2010-11, Blue Valley West High School), Jon Kempin, (2009-10, Blue Valley North High School), Ethan Bauer (2008-09, Olathe South High School) and Coleton Henning (2007-08 & 2006-07, Saint Thomas Aquinas 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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