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**HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Aime Mabika of Henry Clay High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Mabika is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Henry Clay 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 Mabika as Kentucky'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, Mabika 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-6, 192-pound senior defender scored 12 goals and passed for four assists this past season, leading the Blue Devils (22-3-1) to the state championship game. Mabika also anchored a defense that recorded 14 shutouts. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, he was the Kentucky Soccer Coaches Association's Defensive Player of the Year.

Mabika has maintained a weighted 4.08 GPA in the classroom. A native of Zambia who moved to the United States when he was 7 years old, he has volunteered locally helping Lexington-area students new to the United States adjust to the culture. He has also donated his time to multiple community-service initiatives through his church.

"At 6-foot-6, Aime is fast and has very good skill," said Todd Bretz, head coach of Dunbar High. "He has the physical ability to control the field defensively and the skill to direct and control the game offensively."

Mabika has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Mabika joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sam Stockton (2014-15 & 2013-14, Trinity High School), Chris Hubbard (2012-13, Trinity High School), Neil Henley (2011-12, St. Xavier High School), Oliver Brown (2010-11, St. Xavier High School), Lepe Seetane, (2009-10, Trinity High School), Kevin Bick (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Xavier High School), and Josh Lipka (2006-07, Lexington Catholic 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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