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**CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Matt Vowinkel of Chaminade High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Vowinkel is the first Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Chaminade 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 Vowinkel as New York'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, Vowinkel 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, 178-pound junior forward scored 24 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Flyers (18-2-2) to the Catholic High School Athletic Association state championship.

An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Vowinkel is also a First Team All-Long Island and First Team All-Metro honoree.

Vowinkel has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives for the needy and youth sports programs.

"He's got good size, good pace, a nose for the goal, and he can crush the ball," said Don Corrao, assistant coach at St. Anthony's High. "He's got the whole package."

Vowinkel will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Vowinkel joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Soccer Players of the Year T.J. Butzke (2014-15, St. Anthony's High School), Dylan Klein (2013-14, Carle Place High School), Jeff Medina (2012-13, Brentwood High School), Dakota Edwards (2011-12, Sayville High School), Timothy Parker (2010-11, Hicksville High School), Alex Bramall, (2009-10, Newburgh Free Academy), Brian Rogers (2008-09, Bronxville High School), Will Ogden (2007-08, Byram Hills High School), and Wilber Bonilla (2006-07, Brentwood 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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