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CENTRAL BUCKS EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Evan Vare of Central Bucks East High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Vare is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Bucks East 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 Vare as Pennsylvania'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, Vare 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 5-foot-8, 150-pound senior forward led the Patriots to a 26-0 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Vare scored 42 goals and passed for 13 assists and recorded a goal and an assist in a 2-0 win over Seneca Valley in the state final. A two-time Philadelphia Inquirer Player of the Year, Vare is also the 2015 Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 89 goals and 42 assists.

Vare has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through the CB East National Honor Society.

"Evan was the best high school player I've seen in my 10-plus years of coaching," said Kyle McGrath, head coach of Hatboro-Horsham High. "He was the clear-cut leader for his team this year not only in scoring goals and setting them up but also in his relentless work rate, which was what most impressed me."

Vare will attend Lafayette College, where he will play soccer, 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.

Vare joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Players of the Year Robbie Mertz (2014-15, Upper St. Clair High School), Colten Habecker (2013-14, The Hill School), Brett Campbell (2012-13 & 2011-12, The Haverford School), Zach Batteer (2010-11, Mt. Lebanon High School), Joseph Schmid, (2009-10, Wyoming Valley West High School), Andrew Wenger (2008-09, Warwick High School), Shane Pruitt (2007-08, Peters Township High School), and Bobby Warshaw (2006-07, Mechanicsburg 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.