

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**LA SALLE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Stavros Zarokostas of La Salle Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Zarokostas is the eighth Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from La Salle 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 Zarokostas as Rhode Island'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, Zarokostas 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-5, 135-pound senior forward led the Rams to an 18-0-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Zarokostas scored 27 goals and passed for 14 assists. The Rhode Island Soccer Coaches Association's Division I Player of the Year, he was a First Team All-State selection by the Providence Journal.

Zarokostas has maintained a B average in the classroom. A saxophone player in the La Salle Concert Band, he has volunteered locally as a peer mentor at Tides Family Services.

"Stavros' low center of gravity allows him to drift past defenders with ease, and defenders found it very difficult to push him off the ball," said Mick Rooney, head coach of Bishop Hendricken High. "Coupled with his ball skills, that made him a great goal scorer."

Zarokostas has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Rhode Island 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.

Zarokostas joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Players of the Year Leandro Alves (2014-15, Shea High School), Komla Dogbey (2013-14, Hope High School), Dan Apajee (2012-13, La Salle Academy), Colin Patch (2011-12, La Salle Academy), Marcos Ugarte (2010-11, Providence Country Day School), Nick Dube, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Chariho High School), and Brett Uttley (2007-08 & 2006-07, North Kingstown 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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