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**ABERDEEN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Marcus Hluchy of Aberdeen Central High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hluchy is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Aberdeen Central 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 Hluchy as South Dakota'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, Hluchy 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-6, 135-pound junior midfielder scored 10 goals and passed for three assists this past season, leading the Golden Eagles (12-3) to the Class AA state championship game. A transfer from T.F. Riggs High, Hluchy was the Soccer605.com Class AA Player of the Year, and he has been an invitee with the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program.

Hluchy has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Feeding America BackPack Program, which provides nutritious meals for children, and as a youth soccer coach and referee. He has also donated his time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through his church youth group.

"Marcus Hluchy works very hard on both sides of the ball and is very technical," said Chris Limmer, head coach of Brandon Valley High. "He also reads the game very well and is a great distributor of the ball."

Hluchy 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.

Hluchy joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year Lee Wynja (2014-15 & 2013-14, Sioux Falls Christian 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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