Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Alec Philippe of Marquette University High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Philippe is the ninth Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marquette University 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 Philippe as Wisconsin'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, Philippe 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-1, 170-pound senior forward scored 27 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Hilltoppers (20-2) to the Division 1 state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Philippe was named Player of the Year by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and co-Player of the Year by the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association.

Philippe has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also a talented musician, he has raised funds and collected soccer equipment for children in Haiti, and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Hunger Task Force.

"Philippe is fast, explosive and technically sound," said Scott Stein, head coach at Menomonee Falls High. "You have to account for him every second on the pitch. He's also a very unselfish player who makes his teammates better."

Philippe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Wright State University 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.

Philippe joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Players of the Year Peter Raymonds (2014-15, Brookfield East High School), Adam Pohlman (2013-14, Neenah High School), Andrija Novakovich (2012-13, Muskego High School), Patrick Hodan (2011-12, Marquette University High School), Alex Megna (2010-11, Marquette University High School), David Caban, (2009-10, Tremper High School), Robbie Boyd (2008-09, Marquette University High School), Stuart Grable (2007-08, Neenah High School), and Eric Meyer (2006-07, James Madison Memorial 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.