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**WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Bubacar Touray of West Anchorage High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Touray is the eighth Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Anchorage 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 Touray as Alaska'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 June, Touray joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-8, 140-pound senior forward scored 25 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (13-2-2) to the Class 4A semifinals. He is a two-time All-Cook Inlet Conference selection and an All-State honoree.

A devoted member of his mosque, Touray has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs. "Bubacar Touray is the kind of player where everyone in the stadium holds their breath in awe and wonders what he'll do next," said Barat Killian, head coach at Dimond High School. "He is one of the most naturally gifted soccer players in the state of Alaska, but he's also a team player."

Touray has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will attend Tacoma Community College this fall, where he will play soccer.

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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Touray joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Talon Stanley (2015-16, South Anchorage High School), Jack Sedor (2014-15 2013-14, Dimond High School), Jackson Lehnhart (2012-13, Juneau-Douglas High School), Michael Sedor (2011-12, Dimond High School), Kirby Hutto (2010-11, South Anchorage High School), Jon Hall (2009-10, South Anchorage High School), Blaine Carver (2008-09, Soldotna High School), Colin Flynn (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas High School), and Spencer Augustin (2006-07, South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Bubacar will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

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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