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LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 10, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Elliot Smith-Hastie of Loyola High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Smith-Hastie is the first Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Loyola 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 Smith-Hastie as California'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, Smith-Hastie 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-11, 150-pound senior midfielder led the Cubs to a 28-4 record and both the Southern Section Division I title and the Southern California Division I Regional tournament championship this past season. Smith-Hastie scored 22 goals and passed for 17 assists, including two goals in the sectional final and a goal and assist in the regional title game. The Southern Section and California Interscholastic Federation Division I Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 39 goals and 30 assists.

Smith-Hastie has maintained a weighted 3.75 GPA in the classroom. A gifted photographer, he's had a collection of his photographs featured in a gallery at the Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles. He has also volunteered locally at a special education center and as a middle school tutor and teacher's aide.

"Elliot Smith-Hastie is an incredible competitor," said Todd Heil, head coach of Santa Barbara High. "We just didn't have an answer for him. Without him, I don't see Loyola having the season they did. He was their spark and energy on the offensive end."

Smith-Hastie has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Boston College 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.

Smith-Hastie joins recent Gatorade California Boys Soccer Players of the Year Corban Anderson (2014-15, Granite Bay High School), Abu Danladi (2013-14, Dunn School), Cristian Roldan (2012-13, El Rancho High School), Ema Boateng (2011-12, Cate School), Seth Casiple (2010-11, Rocklin High School), Reed Williams (2009-10, Corona del Mar High School), Adam Jahn (2008-09 & 2007-08, Jesuit High School), and Jalil Anibaba (2006-07, Davis Senior 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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