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**WYOMING VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 18, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Joseph Schmid of Wyoming Valley West High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Schmid is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Wyoming Valley West 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 Schmid as Pennsylvania'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, Schmid joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5, 140-pound senior midfielder recorded 43 goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Spartans (11-7-1) to the Class AAA state tournament. A former member of the U.S. Soccer Federation's Under-14, Under-15 and Under-17 Boys National Teams, Schmid is a two-time Wyoming Valley Conference Player of the Year and a four-time Class AAA First Team All-State selection. Schmid scored 43 of the Spartans' 59 goals in 2009.

Schmid has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. A member of several Wyoming Valley West High clubs, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and referee and as a member of his church youth group.

"Joseph Schmid is about as big as a munchkin, but it doesn't matter," said Alan Mezger, Schmid's coach with the FC Delco club team. "He played as a 15-year-old with 18-year-olds because he's so good. He sees the play two plays ahead. He sees everything in slow motion. He's already figured out what the next two sequences are going to be. His technical ability is through the roof. There are not too many players like him in the United States. He's just so technically gifted and creative."

Schmid has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Villanova 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Schmid joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Players of the Year Andrew Wenger (2008-09, Warwick), Shane Pruitt (2007-08, Peters Township), and Bobby Warshaw (2006-07, Mechanicsburg) 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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