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**FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 23, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kevin Michalak of Farmington High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Michalak is the second Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Farmington 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 Michalak as Connecticut'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, Michalak 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 6-foot-1, 165-pound senior midfielder led the Indians to a 16-2-3 record and the Class LL state championship this past season. Michalak recorded 14 goals and eight assists, including a goal and assist in Farmington's 2-1 win over Staples High in the state title game. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Michalak was also an NSCAA Scholar All-American. The MVP of the state championship match, Michalak concluded his prep soccer career with 25 goals and 22 assists.

Michalak has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of his school's Chamber Singers, he has volunteered locally at the Farmington Town Fair and with American Red Cross blood-donation drives.

"Kevin Michalak is an all-around poster child type of kid," said Dave Farrell, Michalak's club coach with Oakwood Soccer Club. "He's a great athlete, super intelligent. He's a midfielder with a very large amount of finesse with the ball. He's attack-minded and sees the game very well."

Michalak will attend Yale University 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 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.

Michalak joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Players of the Year Kofi Agyapong (2009-10, St. Luke's School), Colin Bradley (2008-09, Avon Old Farms School), and Pat Boucher (2007-08, Cromwell) 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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