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**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Fazal Nabi of Portland High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Nabi is the first Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Portland 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 Nabi as Maine'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, Nabi 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 senior midfielder recorded 20 goals and 20 assists this past season, leading the Bulldogs (15-2-1) to the Class A state final. Nabi was an All-New England selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and was named First Team All-State for the third straight season.

Nabi has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an area soup kitchen, Ronald McDonald House Charities and youth soccer camps.

"Nabi can take over a game by himself, but he can also make everyone around him better," said Bill Leblanc, head coach of rival Cheverus High. "He's a great passer, he's great in the air, he shoots the ball so well. I don't see a weakness in his game."

Nabi has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Providence College 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.

Nabi joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Gabe Hoffman-Johnson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Falmouth), and Oliver Blum (2007-08, Greely) 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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