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**WOODBURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Eric Miller of Woodbury High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Miller is the second Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodbury 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 Miller as Minnesota'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, Miller 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 senior midfielder recorded 16 goals and 15 assists this past season, leading the Royals (14-4-1) to the Section IV finals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Miller was also named Class AA Mr. Soccer by the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association and was chosen Metro Player of the Year by the Minneapolis Star Tribune. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he is a roster member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Men's National Team.

Miller has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Key Club, he has volunteered locally with youth soccer programs.

"I really admire Miller's talent and versatility," said Bill Vance, head coach of Totino-Grace High. "He does more than just attack. He's a great all-around player. He's a maestro on the field—he sees things happening that other players just don't see."

Miller has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Creighton University this fall and recently graduated Woodbury High early to begin attending spring semester collegiate classes

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.

Miller joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Paul Yonga (2009-10 & 2008-09, Totino-Grace), and Keidoe Pour (2007-08, Saint Bernard's 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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