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**PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEVADA 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 Matt Polster of Palo Verde High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Polster is the second Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Palo Verde 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 Polster as Nevada'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, Polster 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-11, 160-pound senior midfielder returned from a broken leg to record 10 goals and one assist this past season, leading the Panthers (13-2-3) to the Class 4A Sunset Region semifinals. A three-time First Team All-Sunset Region selection, Polster was a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1993 Region IV Olympic Development Program squad in 2010. He missed the first six games of the 2010 high school season after breaking his leg last July at the Major League Soccer SUM U-17 Cup in Houston. The Panthers' standout concluded his prep soccer career with 24 goals and 12 assists.

Polster has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research and other local charities.

"Matt Polster is very consistent, always a big threat, always a challenge," said Ric Grenell, Polster's club coach with the Downtown Las Vegas Club. "He goes to the ball hard. I like what he does on defense even more than what he does on offense. He never gives up, always pressuring the ball. A lot of players will give up after five or six yards of chasing. He just goes and goes and goes. I like his style of play and his tenacity."

Polster has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville 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.

Polster joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Players of the Year Joaquin Rivas (2009-10, Las Vegas), Kevin Rogge (2008-09, Centennial), and Steven Avena (2007-08, Bishop Gorman) 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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