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**HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 23, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Dan Metzger of Holmdel High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Metzger is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Holmdel 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 Metzger as New Jersey'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, Metzger 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, 155-pound senior midfielder led the Hornets to a 22-1 record and the Group III state championship this past season. Metzger recorded 16 goals and 16 assists, including both goals in Holmdel's 2-1 win over Chatham High in the state title game. A 2010 ESPN RISE First Team All-American selection and a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Men's National Team that traveled to Israel for a tournament in December, Metzger was also the Newark Star Ledger's Monmouth County Player of the Year and a First-Team All-State pick.

Metzger has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and mentor.

"Danny Metzger is an all-around midfielder," said Paul O'Donnell, Metzger's club coach with the New York Red Bulls. "He goes 18-yard box to 18-yard box, he attacks, he defends, he has energy, stamina and work rate. He's been tough to match. I've not seen many better midfielders, if any. He's definitely one of the top midfielders in the country."

Metzger has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Metzger joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jon Aguirre (2009-10, Madison), Rafael Diaz (2008-09, Morris Hills), and Matt Kassel (2007-08, Bridgewater-Raritan) 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.

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