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**WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Braden Schmid of West Fargo High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Schmid is the third Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Fargo 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 Schmid as North Dakota'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, Schmid 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 senior goalkeeper led the Packers to a 13-5-3 record and the state championship this past season. Schmid recorded six shutouts and a 1.05 goals against average, and was named North Dakota's Co-Senior Athlete of the Year. He was a First Team All-State selection and a member of the State All-Tournament Team.

Schmid has maintained a 4.17 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's Principal's Advisory Committee, he has volunteered locally with youth baseball and soccer programs.

"You have to have a good defense to win a title and Schmid was the best defender on the field," said Nick Christianson, head coach of rival Fargo Davies High. "He was like a coach out on the field for that team."

Schmid remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Schmid joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Mike Frenzel (2009-10, Century), Matt Glogoza (2008-09, Shanley), and Alex Paulson (2007-08, Century) 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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