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**CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Tommy Trupo of Charleston Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Trupo is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Charleston Catholic 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 Trupo as West Virginia'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, Trupo 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-8 junior forward led the Fighting Irish to a 19-4-2 record and the Class AA-A state championship this past season. Trupo recorded 25 goals and 10 assists, including three unassisted goals in the title game victory over Oak Hill. He was named Captain of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association All-State Team and was selected Class AA-A Player of the Year by the West Virginia Soccer Coaches Association.

Trupo has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an area food bank and retirement center.

"Trupo is a game-changer," said Steve Cogar, head coach of rival Ravenswood High. "He can score against anybody. He's fast, he's agile and his conditioning is beyond belief."

Trupo will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Trupo joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zack Claudio (2009-10, George Washington), Jeremy Chambers (2008-09, Princeton), and Nader Sawtarie (2007-08, The Linsly 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.

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