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**CREIGHTON PREP STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 10, 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 Jake Linden of Creighton Prep as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Linden is the sixth Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Creighton Prep.

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 Linden as Nebraska'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, Linden 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.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9, 150-pound senior forward has led the Junior Jays to a 17-0 record and a berth in the Class A state quarterfinals against Lincoln Southwest High, scheduled for May 11. At the time of his selection, Linden had scored 14 goals and passed for 12 assists. A 2010 *Omaha World Herald* First-Team All-State selection, Linden is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1993 Region II Olympic Development Program team.

Linden has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Creighton Prep choir, he has volunteered locally as a middle school tutor and as a youth basketball and soccer coach.

"Jake really goes where they need him and he just does it," said Andy Benkis, a state ODP coach. "He sacrifices himself to do what's best for the team. He's really fast, a big strong kid, and he's one of those kids who is just a leader. He always does the right thing."

Linden has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Xavier University in Cincinnati 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.

Linden joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Reeves (2009-10, Creighton Preparatory School), Michael Burke (2008-09, Skutt Catholic), and Seth Neben (2007-08, Lincoln Southwest) 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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