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**NORMAN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Will Smith of Norman North High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Smith is the fourth Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Norman North 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 Smith as Oklahoma'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, Smith 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 6-foot senior forward has led the Timberwolves to a 15-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A semifinals against Broken Arrow, scheduled for May 10. Smith enters the state final four with 27 goals and 7 assists. The Oklahoman Offensive Player of the Year in 2010, he is a two-time All-Mid-State Conference selection and a Third Team ESPN RISE All-American.

Smith has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an area homeless shelter, an Oklahoma City food bank and Habitat for Humanity. He has also participated in service-mission trips to Mexico to build homes and a school for the underprivileged.

"He's one of those goal scorers you always have to keep an eye on," said Gordon Drummond, head coach of rival Norman High. "He's very composed in front of the net, he's got a good sense of how to get himself open and he's got a very big shot."

Smith has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Southern Methodist University 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Players of the Year Omar Mata (2009-10, Union), Jack Coleman (2008-09, Norman North), and Thomas Shannon (2007-08, Broken Arrow Senior) 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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