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## CATE SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 15, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced **Emmanuel Boateng of Cate School** as its **2011-12 Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Boateng is the first Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cate 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 Boateng as California'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, Boateng joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6, 165-pound senior midfielder led the Rams to a 20-2-1 record and the CIF-Southern Section Division VII tournament championship this past season. Boateng scored 32 goals, passed for 19 assists and was a repeat selection as the Southern Section Division VII Player of the Year. A two-time Division VII First Team All-State honoree, he concluded his prep soccer career with 79 goals and 49 assists. Officially a member of the Class of 2013, Boateng has earned enough credits to attend University of California Santa Barbara this fall.

Boateng has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a participant in multiple school-wide community service projects in addition to coordinating and coaching at a summer youth soccer camp.

"Emmanuel Boateng is the best player I have seen this year," said Davor Fabulich, head coach of JSerra Catholic High. "He has great skills, great vision and always makes the right first touch. He knows how to position himself and make runs off the ball. He is a complete soccer player."

Boateng has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the UC Santa Barbara 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 ESPNHS 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.

Boateng joins recent Gatorade California Boys Soccer Players of the Year Seth Casiple (2010-11, Rocklin High School), Reed Williams, (2009-10, Corona del Mar), Adam Jahn (2008-09 & 2007-08, Jesuit High School), and Jalil Anibaba (2006-2007, Davis 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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