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**KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 15, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Tim Baker of Knoxville Catholic High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Baker is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Knoxville 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 Baker as Tennessee'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, Baker 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-8, 135-pound senior midfielder scored 29 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Irish (15-2-3) to the District 4-AAA Tournament semifinals. A First Team All-State selection by both the Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, Baker concluded his prep soccer career with 65 goals and 49 assists.

Baker has maintained a 3.78 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his school.

"Tim was the fastest player on the ball that we played this year," said Seth Harbin, head coach of rival Webb School of Knoxville. "His touch on the ball was better than anyone we saw this year. To quote some of my players, 'He's incredible.' My guys haven't given that kind of praise to any player this year."

Baker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., 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.

Baker joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Players of the Year Chandler Gagnon (2010-11, Evangelical Christian School), Chandler Gagnon, (2009-10, Evangelical Christian School), Mark Sherrod (2008-09, Carter High School), Stephen Morrissey (2007-08, Battle Ground Academy), and Tom Webster (2006-2007, Bearden) 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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