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**BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Taylor Fankhauser of Brighton High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Fankhauser is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Brighton 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 Fankhauser as Utah'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, Fankhauser 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-7 senior forward/midfielder led the Bengals to a 13-1 record entering the Class 5A state playoffs against Layton, scheduled to begin May 15. Fankhauser scored nine goals and passed for 13 assists in the regular season. He was a First Team All-Region honoree in 2011 and a Second Team All-State selection by the Salt Lake Tribune.

Fankhauser has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in his school, Fankhauser has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and an area food bank. He's also completed an Eagle Scout project that provided Christmas gifts for the underprivileged children of migrant workers.

"He's very aggressive and he controls the ball for that team," said Daniel Luna, head coach at West Jordan High. "He's got the vision of the game. He can see what they need to score, and he gets it done."

Fankhauser will attend Brigham Young University this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Fankhauser joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Players of the Year Derek Boggs (2010-11, Alta High School), Thomas Loomis, (2009-10, Brighton), James Rogers (2008-09 Highland High School), Jake Hustedt (2007-08, Jordan), and Jake Cook (2006-07, East) 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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