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**DEEP RUN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Todd Wharton of Deep Run High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Wharton is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Deep Run 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 Wharton as Virginia'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, Wharton 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-10, 155-pound senior midfielder has led the Wildcats to a 13-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest against Mills Godwin High, scheduled for May 15. Wharton scored 31 goals and passed for 22 assists through 14 games. A 2011 Youth All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Wharton was also the 2011 Colonial District Player of the Year. He is Deep Run's career leader in scoring and assists with 70 goals and 52 assists.

Wharton has maintained a 4.79 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Society of High School Scholars, he has volunteered locally as a youth mentor, a sports camp counselor and with Young Life non-denominational Christian ministry.

"Todd Wharton is a strong presence both in the midfield and in the attacking third," said Jim Dorton of rival Tucker High. "He is gifted with a great touch and speed. He is hard to match up against because he has the ability to break a game open on his own. He can and often does provide the winning threat that Deep Run needs to win matches."

Wharton has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Wharton joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Luis Rendon (2010-11, Cosby High School), Ryan Zinkhan, (2009-10, Riverbend), Will Bates (2008-09, Thomas Dale High School), Christian McLaughlin (2007-08, Herndon), and Uche Onyeador (2006-2007, Potomac Falls) 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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