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**LINCOLN EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Gabe Garbin of Lincoln East High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Garbin is the first Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln East 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 Garbin as Nebraska'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, Garbin 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, 165-pound senior defender and midfielder scored 14 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Spartans (12-6) to the District A-7 Tournament championship game. A 2011 First Team All-State selection as a defender, Garbin has been a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program. He concluded his prep soccer career with 16 goals and 12 assists.

Garbin has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Salvation Army.

"Gabe Garbin has an incredible touch on the ball," said Jim Ageton, head coach of rival Lincoln Southeast High. "The ball seems to be an extension of his body that he can move as easily as his own foot. He is so dangerous offensively that he can be used to draw two or three defenders and set up the rest of the team."

Garbin has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Creighton 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 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.

Garbin joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake Linden (2010-11, Creighton Prep), Taylor Reeves, (2009-10, Creighton Preparatory School), Michael Burke (2008-09, Skutt Catholic High School), Seth Neben (2007-08, Lincoln Southwest), and Kyle Deremer (2006-2007, Millard North) 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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