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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**BOISE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 22, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Bryson Pavel of Boise High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Pavel is the sixth Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Boise 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 Pavel as Idaho'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, Pavel 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 6-foot, 165-pound senior defender led the Broncos to a 19-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Pavel scored 10 goals and passed for six assists from his central defender position, leading a unit that allowed only 13 goals all season and posted 13 shutouts. A Class 5A First Team All-State selection, he had two goals and an assist in Boise's 3-0 win over Post Falls High in the state semifinals.

Pavel has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with a community-beautification project, as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Many players in our game excel in a particular position, they just fit an area, but Bryson Pavel is a true exception," said Matt Billings, head coach of Timberline High. "He's equally adept with either foot and equipped athletically for any facet of the game. He can play anywhere on the pitch."

Pavel has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Seattle Pacific 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.

Pavel joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Players of the Year Michael Soderlund (2010 - 11, Timberline), Justin Hill (2009-10, 2008-09 Boise), Nick Sykes (2007-08, Mountain View), and Mike McLeod (2006-2007, Boise) 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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