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**EASTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 22, 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 Matthew Gweh of Eastview High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gweh is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Eastview 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 Gweh as Minnesota'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, Gweh 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-5 junior forward scored 28 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Lightning (20-1-1) to the Class AA state finals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Gweh was a First Team All-State honoree, a member of the Star Tribune All-Metro Team and the Pioneer Press Metro Player of the Year.

Gweh has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an AIDS awareness program and as a youth soccer coach.

"Gweh has great speed and he's very strong on the ball," said Shane Lanning, head coach of Hastings High. "He's a dynamic player and you always have to know where he is. I hate it whenever he gets the ball."

Gweh will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Gweh joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Eric Miller (2010 - 11, Woodbury High School), Paul Yonga (2009-10, 2008-09, Totino-Grace), Keidoe Pour (2007-08, Saint Bernard's School) and Abe Gibbons (2006-2007, South) 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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