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**ROCKHURST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Derek Schrick of Rockhurst High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Schrick is the second Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rockhurst 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 Schrick as Missouri'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, Schrick 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-11, 170-pound senior midfielder scored 10 goals and passed for 24 assists this past season, leading the Hawklets (22-4-1) to the Class 3, District 13 championship match. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Schrick was the Missouri Soccer Coaches Association Class 3 Player of the Year and the Kansas City Star High School Player of the Year. He concluded his prep soccer career with 45 goals and 67 assists.

Schrick has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Rockhurst Honors Choir, he has volunteered locally as a youth mentor to special-needs students, at a local hospice and as a youth soccer coach.

"Derek Schrick was very clearly the best player on the field," said Dustin Sollars, head coach of Park Hill High. "He has a remarkable touch and runs everything in the middle of the field. He is the first outlet from the back line and he dictates the offense like a point guard might on a basketball court."

Schrick has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Southern Methodist 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.

Schrick joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Players of the Year Alec Cochran (2010 - 11, Christian Brothers College High School), Adnan Gabeljic, (2009-10, Mehlville High School), Alex Sweetin (2008-09 Rockhurst), Will Bruin (2007-08, De Smet Jesuit), and Mike Roach (2006-2007, Chaminade College Preparatory School) 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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