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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Jacob Weiler of Fargo South High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Weiler is the fourth Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Fargo South 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 Weiler as North Dakota'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, Weiler 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-1 junior midfielder scored 11 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Bruins (8-10-2) to fifth place in the state tournament. Weiler was a First Team All-Eastern Dakota Conference honoree and a First Team All-State selection.

Weiler has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, he has volunteered locally assisting the elderly and on behalf of the US Youth Soccer TOPsoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Weiler is a good team player and he has a great skill set," said Nick Christianson, head coach of rival Fargo Davies High. "He controls the tempo, he's a great passer and he has tremendous vision."

Weiler 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.

Weiler joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Braden Schmid (2010 - 11, West Fargo High School), Mike Frenzel, (2009-10, Century High School), Matt Glogoza (2008-09 Shanley), Alex Paulson (2007-08, Century) and Isak Tengesdal (2006-2007, Minot) 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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