

**ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Matt Foldesy of St. Ignatius High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Foldesy is the second Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Ignatius 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 Foldesy as Ohio'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, Foldesy 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-6, 145-pound senior forward and midfielder led the Wildcats to a 22-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Foldesy scored 20 goals and passed for 18 assists, including a goal and two assists in St. Ignatius' 4-2 win over Olentangy Liberty in the state final. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, he concluded his prep soccer career with 42 goals and 31 assists.

Foldesy has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter, as a summer camp counselor and he has also completed a service-mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

"Matt Foldesy was just so dangerous and crafty on the offensive side of the ball," said Nate Maust, head coach of Dublin Jerome High. "I would consider him the glue that held the midfield and offense together. He has a very intelligent vision of the field and seemed to be one or two steps ahead of everyone else."

Foldesy has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Akron 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.

Foldesy joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Players of the Year Wil Trapp (2010 - 11, 2009-10 Lincoln High School), Matt Wiet (2008-09 Worthington Kilbourne), Nick Blevins (2007-08, Bloom Carroll) and Lamar Skeeter (2006-2007, Fairmont) 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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