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**WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Jaime Velasco of Westview High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Velasco is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Westview 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 Velasco as Oregon'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, Velasco 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 forward led the Wildcats to an 18-2-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Velasco scored 30 goals and passed for 18 assists, including the only goal in both the state semifinals and the state final. The Oregonian's Class 6A Player of the Year and the Metro League Player of the Year, Velasco transferred to Westview from Anchorage, Alaska, before his junior year. He recorded 44 goals and 28 assists in two seasons with the Wildcats.

Velasco has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as an elementary school aide and as a youth soccer coach.

"Jaime Velasco is a go-to player with great ball skills and he's so fast," said Jason Goodrich, head coach of Southridge High. "What sets him apart from other players are his play-making abilities and that he can finish on goal with multiple players on him. He can carry the team when needed with his talent and determination."

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

Velasco joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake Bishop (2010 - 11, Jesuit High School), Thomas Iwasaki, (2009-10, Lake Oswego High School), Jonathan Flores (2008-09 McMinnville), Chilo Rivera (2007-08, Glencoe), and Frankie Lopez (2006-2007, McMinnville) 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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