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**CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Tommy Trupo of Charleston Catholic High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Trupo is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Charleston Catholic 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 Trupo as West Virginia'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, Trupo 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-9 senior forward scored 40 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Fighting Irish (23-0-2) to their third consecutive Class AA-A state title. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Trupo was the Class AA-A Player of the Year for the second straight season and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He concluded his prep career with 102 goals.

Trupo has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an area food bank and a senior center.

"Trupo's skills make him a great player, but his most important attribute is how he makes everyone better around him," said Eric Minsker, head coach of Sissonville High. "His instincts are far superior to anyone we've seen."

Trupo has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Marshall 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.

Trupo joins former West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zack Claudio, (2009-10, George Washington High School), Jeremy Chambers (2008-09 Princeton), Nader Sawtarie (2007-08, The Linsly School), and Vinny Crumrine (2006-2007, Wheeling Park) 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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