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**NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 19, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Mike Galullo of North Central High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Galullo is the third Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from North Central 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 Galullo as Indiana'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, Galullo 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, 149-pound senior midfielder scored 13 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Panthers (8-6-2) to the Class 2A state tournament. The Indiana Soccer Coaches Association State Player of the Year, Galullo was an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and the Indianapolis Star Super Team Player of the Year. He concluded his prep soccer career with 28 goals and 23 assists.

Galullo has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth soccer coach. He has also donated his time helping to organize a charity soccer game to benefit the Jackson Center for Conductive Education, which helps children with cerebral palsy.

"I have worked with a number of players in MLS and I put Mike right up there," said John Griffin, the director of coaching with the Dynamo FC club program. "He's tough, excellent 1-v-1, he can finish, distribute and defensively he's very good, too."

Galullo has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Indiana University beginning this fall and recently graduated North Central High early to begin attending spring semester collegiate classes.

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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Galullo joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Femi Hollinger-Janzen (2011-12, Bethany Christian High School), Eriq Zavaleta (2010-11, Westfield High School), A.J. Corrado, (2009-10, Zionsville Community High School), Harrison Petts (2008-09 Zionsville Community), Mitch Day (2007-08, Memorial), and Robby Lynch (2006-2007, Carmel) 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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