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CHAMINADE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Tommy Barlow of Chaminade College Preparatory School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Barlow is the second Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Chaminade College Preparatory 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 Barlow as Missouri'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, Barlow 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, 165-pound junior midfielder scored 27 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Red Devils (25-3-2) to the Class 3 state championship match. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Barlow was also the Missouri Soccer Coaches Association Class 3 Player of the Year. He concluded his junior year with 58 goals and 28 assists in his prep soccer career.

Barlow has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research, a neighborhood beautification project and at a soup kitchen.

"Tommy Barlow is the real deal," said Greg Vitello, head coach of DeSmet Jesuit High. "He creates a lot of havoc wherever he is on the field. He can change a game quickly. His biggest deal is that he can finish."

Barlow will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Barlow joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Players of the Year Derek Schrick (2011–12, Rockhurst High School), Alec Cochran (2010–11, Christian Brothers College High School), Adnan Gabeljic, (2009–10, Mehlville High School), Alex Sweetin (2008–09 Rockhurst), Will Bruin (2007–08, De Smet Jesuit), and Mike Roach (2006–2007, Chaminade College Preparatory School) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.