

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**MADEIRA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 19, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sam Bascom of Madeira High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Bascom is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Madeira 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 Bascom 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, Bascom 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-11, 155-pound senior forward scored 27 goals and passed for 31 assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (22-1) to the Division III state quarterfinals. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association Division III Co-Player of the Year and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Bascom was the East Team MVP at the High School Soccer All-American Game in Birmingham, Ala., in December. He concluded his prep soccer career with 91 goals and 71 assists.

Bascom has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. A Scholar All-America honoree by the NSCAA, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church.

"Sam Bascom is the very best player in Ohio, hands down," said Barnard Baker, head coach of Summit Country Day School. "He is savvy and precise. His speed-of-play and speed-of-thought are two steps ahead of 90 percent of the field. He is a great kid that I hated to coach against but loved to watch."

Bascom will attend the United States Naval Academy this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Bascom joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Soccer Players of the Year Matt Foldesy (2011-12, St. Ignatius High School), 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###