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**CANBY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Eddie Sanchez of Canby High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Sanchez is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Canby 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 Sanchez 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, Sanchez 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 midfielder scored 14 goals and passed for four assists this past season, leading the Cougars (4-9-2) to the Class 6A state tournament. A Class 6A First Team All-State selection and the Three Rivers League co-MVP, Sanchez is a four-time First Team All-Three Rivers League honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 45 goals and 16 assists.

Sanchez has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and mentor.

"You name it, Eddie can do it," said Chuck Bechtol, Sanchez's club coach with FC Portland. "He's athletic, strong and has very good skills. He's got that little bit of nasty in him."

Sanchez 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 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.

Sanchez joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jaime Velasco (2011-12, Westview High School), 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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