

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Felipe Thompson of Hurricane High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Thompson is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hurricane 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 Thompson 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, Thompson 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, 170 pound senior forward scored 49 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Redskins (23-0-1) to the Class AAA state title. Thompson was the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association Class AAA Player of the Year and was named captain of the Class AAA All-State team by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

Thompson has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home and has also donated his time at youth soccer clinics.

"Thompson really had an impact on West Virginia high school soccer," said Dan Fosselman, head coach at Parkersburg High. "We don't get many players of his skill and tactical awareness. He was something very special."

Thompson remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Thompson joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Tommy Trupo (2011-12 & 2010-11, Charleston Catholic High School), 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

###