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**MUSKEGO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Andrija Novakovich of Muskego High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Novakovich is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Muskego 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 Novakovich as Wisconsin'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, Novakovich 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-4, 175-pound junior forward scored 41 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Warriors (18-5-3) to the sectional final. An All-Region selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Novakovich was also a First Team All-State and First Team Classic 8 All-Conference honoree.

Novakovich has maintained 3.85 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and has served as a math tutor for elementary school students.

"He has a special skill set," said Ben Voss, head coach at Madison Memorial High. "Technically he's very sound and he can create a shot from anywhere. He's big, fast, physical, great in the air, and he has great touch."

Novakovich will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Novakovich joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Players of the Year Patrick Hodan (2011-12, Marquette University High School), Alex Megna (2010-11, Marquette University High School), David Caban, (2009-10, Tremper High School), Robbie Boyd (2008-09 Marquette University), Stuart Grable (2007-08, Neenah), and Eric Meyer (2006-2007, James Madison Memorial) 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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