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**MONTVERDE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 14, 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 Thales Moreno of Montverde Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Moreno is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Montverde Academy.

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 Moreno as Florida'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, Moreno 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, 165-pound senior midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Eagles to a 25-0-1 record and the No. 1 ranking in country by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, MaxPreps.com and EliteSoccerReport.com. A native of Brazil, Moreno was named to the All-Tournament Team at the Berkeley Prep Holiday Invitational and the Montverde Academy Soccer Tournament. Montverde defeated eventual state champions from Arizona and Texas at the latter.

Moreno has maintained a 3.32 GPA in the classroom. A participant in school theater productions as well as the 2012 Spring Strings Musical Concert as a beginner with the viola, he has volunteered locally at the Boys and Girls Club of Clermont and on behalf of the Special Olympics.

"Thales Moreno is a complete player," said Jerry McCabe, head coach of Melbourne High. "He uses both feet, has great vision and passing skills and is a great finisher in the attacking third. He's a true No. 10."

Moreno has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Clemson University 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.

Moreno joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brian James (2011-12, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Verner Valimaa (2010-11, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Max Rockwell (2009-10, JW Mitchell), Hasani Sinclair (2008-09, American Heritage School of Boca/Delray), Shawn Barry (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Eugene Starikov (2006-07, Palm Harbor University) 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).

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