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**LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Ethan Judice of Lafayette High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Judice is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lafayette 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 Judice as Louisiana'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, Judice 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-9, 176-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 13 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Mighty Lions (24-2-2) to the Division I state semifinals. Judice is a two-time First Team All-State selection and was named Division I MVP by the Louisiana High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Judice has maintained a 3.02 GPA in the classroom. A member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs and community clean-up initiatives.

"Judice is a very talented player," said Michael Ritch, head coach at St. Thomas More High. "He's athletic, plays with great pace and he can create for his teammates."

Judice has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of West Florida 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.

Judice joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Phillip Hicks (2011-12, Jesuit High School), Adrian McInnis (2010-11, Saint Paul's School), Steven Cabos (2009-10, Jesuit), Patrick Mullins (2008-09, Jesuit High School), Nick Flowers (2007-08, Caddo Parish Magnet), and Andrew Mullins (2006-07, Jesuit) 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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