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**NORMAN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Mauro Cichero of Norman North High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Cichero is the fourth Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Norman North 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 Cichero as Oklahoma'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, Cichero 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-3, 165-pound junior midfielder led the Timberwolves to a 13-4 record and the Class 6A state finals this past season. Cichero scored 22 goals and passed for two assists. He is a two-time All-Conference and two-time All-District selection.

Cichero has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. A mentor in his school for students learning English as a second language, he has volunteered on behalf of Students Performing Unselfish Deeds, which provides assistance to underprivileged local families.

"Cichero has a great shot and he's skilled in every area of the game," said Gordon Drummond, head coach at rival Norman High. "He has great vision, he's super in the air, and he's very composed."

Cichero 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.

Cichero joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Soccer Players of the Year Cristian Mata (2011-12, Union High School), Will Smith (2010-11, Norman North High School), Omar Mata (2009-10, Union), Jack Coleman (2008-09, Norman North High School), Thomas Shannon (2007-08, Broken Arrow Senior), and Jonathan Gann (2006-07, Union) 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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