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SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 14, 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 Carter Johnson of Skyview High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Johnson as Washington'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, Johnson 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-11, 160-pound junior forward has led the Storm to a 14-3-1 record entering the Class 4A state tournament, scheduled to begin May 15. The 2013 Greater St. Helens League MVP, Johnson scored 26 goals and passed for six assists in 18 games. In the 2012 state tournament, Johnson scored seven goals and added two assists in five games, including a pair of goals in Skyview's 3-2 win over Central Kitsap High in the Class 4A championship game.

Johnson has maintained a 3.7 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Skyview High Science, Math and Technology Program, he has volunteered locally at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver in addition to donating his time as a peer tutor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Carter is a playmaker and a goal-scorer," said Sam Busick, head coach of Hudson's Bay High. "He scores goals when needed and creates them when needed. That is highly unusual in soccer. He has a huge impact on any game he plays in and his skill and technical ability on the ball and off the ball is impressive for a high school player."

Johnson will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Morris (2011-12, Mercer Island High School), Aaron Kovar (2010-11, Garfield High School), Nick Palodichuk (2009-10, Camas), Michael Harris (2008-09, Shorecrest High School), Brent Richards (2007-08, Camas), and Brandon Kelley (2006-07, Snohomish) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.