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**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 18, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Josh Vlasich of Exeter High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Vlasich is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter 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 Vlasich as New Hampshire'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, Vlasich joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9 senior forward recorded 12 goals and 15 assists this past season, leading the Blue Hawks (16-1-3) to the Class L championship game, where they fell, 1-0, to Manchester Central. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Vlasich was also chosen First Team All State each of the last two seasons.

Vlasich has maintained a weighted 3.99 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer care and research.

"Vlasich can distribute, he's a scorer—he can do whatever his team needs," said Kerry Boles, head coach of rival Pinkerton Academy. "He's talented with both feet and he's in control, no matter how fast the pace."

Vlasich remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Vlasich joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Players of the Year Kenny Kolbeck (2008-09, Pinkerton Academy), Brad Hilton (2007-08, Merrimack), and Robbie McLarney (2006-07, Londonderry) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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