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**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 15, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Phillip Hicks of Jesuit High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hicks is the fourth Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Hicks 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, Hicks 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-1 senior defender scored nine goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Blue Jays (27-1-4) to the Division I state championship and a No. 7 ranking nationally in the ESPNHS Fab 50. Hicks was the state Division I Player of the Year and the Times-Picayune Defensive Player of the Year

Hicks has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and an area homeless shelter.

"Hicks is big, fast, good in the air," said Louie Smothermon, head coach at Brother Martin High. "He was a great leader for his team, one of those kids with a refuse-to-lose mentality."

Hicks will attend Louisiana State 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 ESPNHS 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.

Hicks joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year 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 (2006-2007, 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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