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**DOVER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 22, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Matt Hogsten of Dover High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hogsten is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Dover 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 Hogsten as Delaware'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, Hogsten 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, 165-pound senior forward scored 20 goals and passed for 14 assists this past season, leading the Senators (10-5-1) to the state tournament. A National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Region II selection, Hogsten has twice earned First Team All-State recognition. A three-time First Team All-Henlopen Conference honoree, he concluded his prep soccer career with 67 goals and 31 assists.

Hogsten has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A member of the Rotary International Interact Club, he has volunteered locally with the Dover Little League and the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Matt Hogsten was the engine that ran their team," said Bob Bussiere, head coach of Archmere Academy. "He was the leader of their team not only because he was their most talented player but also because he was vocal and he worked at a high rate. He was one of the most impressive players we faced all year."

Hogsten 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 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.

Hogsten joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nick Dirienzo (2010 - 11, Charter School of Wilmington), Andrew O'Malley (2009-10, 2008-09 Salesianum School) and Matt Margiotta (2007-08, Salesianum School) 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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