

**GILMAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Andrew Harris of Gilman School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maryland Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Harris is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gilman 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 Harris as Maryland'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, Harris 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, 195-pound senior goalkeeper recorded 15 shutouts and allowed 10 goals this past season, leading the Greyhounds (18-4-1) to the Independent Athletic Association of Maryland Conference A tournament championship game. A two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Harris is a two-time First Team All-State honoree and the 2010 Baltimore Sun All-Metro Player of the Year. He concluded his prep soccer career with 37 shutouts.

Harris has maintained a B average in the classroom. The vice president of the Gilman senior class and a member of the school's judiciary committee, he has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign on behalf of breast cancer research and as a youth soccer coach.

"The amazing thing about Andrew Harris' career was the number of goals Gilman gave up through a brutal schedule," said John Coppola, head coach of Archbishop Spalding High. "They just didn't surrender a lot of goals. Harris always had control of the box. He has very quick reflexes and was just an outstanding leader."

Harris has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Wake Forest 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.

Harris joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Soccer Players of the Year Cody Albrecht (2010 - 11, DeMatha Catholic High School), Marquez Fernandez (2009-10, 2008-09, McDonogh School), Chris Agorsor (2007-08, McDonogh School), and B.J. Quigley (2006-2007, Archbishop Curley) 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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