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**PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 22, 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 Brian Hart of Phillips Exeter Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hart is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Phillips Exeter Academy.

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 Hart 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, Hart 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-2 senior forward scored 35 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season to lead the Big Red (18-2) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council semifinals. A Boston Globe All-Scholastic and the NEPSAC Class A MVP, Hart broke the school's single-season and career records for goals scored.

Hart has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also a hockey standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and a youth skating program.

"Brian Hart is an absolute monster, a beast," said Bill Scott, head coach of rival Phillips Academy Andover. "He's as good a prep player as I've seen in a long time, and I've been coaching for 31 years. He's quick and strong and runs through people, but his skill level is stunningly good."

Hart will attend Harvard University this fall, where he will play hockey.

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.

Hart joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Players of the Year Eric Jayne (2010 - 11, Hanover High School), Josh Vlasich, (2009-10, Exeter High School), Kenny Kolbeck (2008-09 Pinkerton Academy), Brad Hilton (2007-08, Merrimack) and Robbie McLarney (2006-2007, 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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