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**LA SALLE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Colin Patch of La Salle Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Patch is the fifth Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from La Salle 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 Patch as Rhode Island'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, Patch 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 defensive midfielder led the Rams to a 15-1-5 record and the Division 1 state championship this past season. Patch scored seven goals and passed for 12 assists while helping the defense record 10 shutouts. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Patch is a two-time Providence Journal First Team All-State honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 19 goals and 30 assists.

Patch has maintained a weighted A-minus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a landscaper/painter, on behalf of a homeless shelter and food bank and he has completed a service-mission trip to Costa Rica.

"Colin Patch was the best player in Rhode Island," said Tony Vieira, head coach of East Providence High. "He's a good ball-winner with a great range of passing and field awareness. If I had to pick one guy I could steal and put on my team it would have been Colin."

Patch will attend Connecticut College this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Patch joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Soccer Players of the Year Marcos Ugarte (2010 - 11, Providence Country Day), Nick Dubee (2009-10, 2008-09, Chariho), and Brett Uttley (2007-08, 2006-2007, North Kingstown) 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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