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**U-32 HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Jack Shea of U-32 High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Shea is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from U-32 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 Shea as Vermont'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, Shea 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 midfielder scored 13 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Raiders to the Division 2 state championship game. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Shea was also the Times Argus Player of the Year and a First Team All-State honoree.

Shea has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a mentor for elementary school students in the community.

"You can't usually find a kid who plays as hard as Shea does for as long as he does," said Jason Miles, head coach of rival Montpelier High. "He's really relentless, with a great motor. He's also very skilled, he plays both ends and he's great in transition."

Shea has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Vermont 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.

Shea joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Paul Bianchi (2010 - 11, Essex High School), Andrew Mercier, (2009-10, South Burlington High School), Rob Cole (2008-09 South Burlington), Tyler Macnee (2007-08, Champlain Valley Union) and Andy Borah (2006-2007, Champlain Valley Union) 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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