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**HOTCHKISS SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 19, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Isaac Normesinu of Hotchkiss School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Normesinu is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hotchkiss 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 Normesinu as Connecticut'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, Normesinu 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-8 senior forward scored 16 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Bearcats (9-5-2) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A tournament quarterfinals. The 2012 Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association Prep School Player of the Year and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Normesinu participated in the High School Soccer All-American Game in Birmingham, Ala., in December. He concluded his prep soccer career with 40 goals and 19 assists.

Normesinu has maintained a B average in the classroom. A native of Ghana, he has volunteered as a mentor to new international students at Hotchkiss and as a teacher's aide at a local elementary school.

"Isaac is a dynamic attacking player," said Owen Finberg, head coach of South Kent School. "He has blistering pace and is very dangerous on the ball. He is creative and very good taking players on. He is someone that you have to account for every minute of the match."

Normesinu has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Boston College 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Normesinu joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zach Zurita (2011-12, Bunnell High School), Kevin Michalak (2010-11, Farmington High School), Kofi Agyapong, (2009-10, St. Luke's School), Colin Bradley (2008-09 Avon Old Farms School), Pat Boucher (2007-08, Cromwell), and Ryan Kinne (2006-2007, Naugatuck) 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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