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**BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Erik Martel of Bedford High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Martel is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bedford 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 Martel 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, Martel 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-9, 156-pound senior forward scored 17 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Bulldogs to the Division 1 state semifinals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Martel was also a three-time First Team All-State honoree and the Union Leader Player of the Year.

Martel has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs.

"Physically, Martel is a tremendous competitor," said Jeff Colbert, head coach at Londonderry High. "He's technically sound, great speed, good strength on the ball. He's just an excellent player who is difficult to match up against."

Martel has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of New Hampshire.

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.

Martel joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brian Hart (2011-12, Phillips Exeter Academy), 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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