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## CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 Shane Haley of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Haley is the third Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Haley 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, Haley 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-6, 145-pound senior forward scored 25 goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Redhawks (16-1-1) to the Division 1 state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Haley was also a First Team All-Metro and First Team All-State honoree as both a junior and senior.

Haley has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an area respite house for the terminally ill.

"Haley is very skilled and very fast," said Phil Jacobs, head coach at Mt. Mansfield High. "He's tough, smart, opportunistic. He's someone who is very difficult to stop when he puts his mind to scoring."

Haley has verbally committed to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Vermont beginning this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Haley joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jack Shea (2011–12, U-32 High School), 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.