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**THE HILL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 2014) — In its 29<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 Colten Habecker of The Hill School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Habecker is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Hill 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 Habecker as Pennsylvania'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, Habecker 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-1, 170-pound senior forward led the Blues to a 19-1 record and the Pennsylvania Independent Schools state championship this past season. Habecker scored 34 goals and passed for 10 assists, including six goals and one assist in four postseason games. The Pottstown Mercury Player of the Year, Habecker participated in December's High School All-American Game in Downington. He concluded his prep soccer career with 60 goals and 32 assists.

Habecker has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth soccer coach. He devotes much of his time to the care of his younger brother, Josh, who has cerebral palsy.

"Colten Habecker was multi-dimensional, retreating to help defend or pick the ball up, working in combination and off the dribble and was very accurate in front of goal," said Blake Eldridge, head coach of Lawrenceville School. "I could be confident putting Colten anywhere on the field and know he'd probably be the best player at that position."

Habecker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic and academic scholarship at Southern Methodist University 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.

Habecker joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brett Campbell (2012-13 & 2011-12, The Haverford School), Zach Batteer (2010-11, Mt. Lebanon High School), Joseph Schmid, (2009-10, Wyoming Valley West High School), Andrew Wenger (2008-09, Warwick), Shane Pruitt (2007-08, Peters Township), and Bobby Warshaw (2006-2007, Mechanicsburg) 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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