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**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Zack Evans of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Evans is the seventh 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 Evans 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, Evans 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-11 senior defender led the Redhawks (16-2) to the Division 1 state final this past year. An All-New England selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Evans anchored a defense that allowed just seven goals and notched 13 shutouts. He scored three goals and passed for three assists, and was a two-time Burlington Free Press First Team All-State selection. Evans has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's Athletic Leadership Council, he has served as a peer mentor and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps.

"Evans reads the game very, very well from the back," said Scott Mosher, head coach at Essex High. "He's strong defensively, but he can also be productive in transition. As soon as he wins the ball, your team is under pressure."

Evans 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 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.

Evans joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Soccer Players of the Year Shane Haley (2012-13, Champlain Valley Union High School), 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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