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**GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Garrett Phillips of George Washington High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Phillips is the third Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from George Washington 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 Phillips as West Virginia'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, Phillips 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-2, 170-pound senior goalkeeper recorded 19 shutouts and allowed just nine goals this past season, leading the Patriots (24-0-1) to the Class AAA state championship.

An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Phillips was also chosen captain of the Class AAA All-State team and was named Class AAA Player of the Year by the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Phillips has maintained a 4.39 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and assisting the elderly.

"Phillips is the best keeper I've seen in quite some time," said Rocky Powell, head coach at Woodrow Wilson High. "Good in the air, good distributing the ball, and he makes great reaction saves. He's a weapon from the back, just a real quality player."

Phillips remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Phillips joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Felipe Thompson (2012-13, Hurricane High School), Tommy Trupo (2011-12 & 2010-11, Charleston Catholic High School), Zack Claudio, (2009-10, George Washington High School), Jeremy Chambers (2008-09, Princeton), Nader Sawtarie (2007-08, The Linsly School), and Vinny Crumrine (2006-2007, Wheeling Park) 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.

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