

**Contact: Kelly Magnus (312-729-3622)**

**PINKERTON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2015) — In its 30<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 Kyle Hicks of Pinkerton Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hicks is the third Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinkerton Academy.

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 Hicks 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, Hicks 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, 155-pound senior midfielder scored 12 goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Astros (14-5-1) to the Division 1 state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Hicks scored in every postseason game. He was a First Team All-State honoree and was named the Eagle-Tribune Player of the Year.

Hicks has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, the Special Olympics and youth soccer programs.

"Hicks is a two-way player and he does whatever needs to be done," said Rob Grabill, head coach at Hanover High. "He's very good offensively, with a great first touch, but he never tries to do too much. He always lets the game come to him."

Hicks will attend Southern New Hampshire 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.

Hicks joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Players of the Year Daniel Hazlett (2013-14, Hanover High School), Erik Martel (2012-13, Bedford High School), 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 (2006-07, 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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