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**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jacob Gould of Exeter High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gould is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter 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 Gould 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 June, Gould joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 6-foot, 160-pound senior midfielder scored 12 goals and passed for 19 assists this past season, leading the Blue Hawks (15-5) to the Division 1 state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Gould was named a First Team All-State honoree as well.

Also a football standout, Gould has volunteered locally on behalf of his church's youth education program. "In my mind, Jake Gould is the best player in the state," said Rob Grabill, head coach at Hanover High School. "He controls the flow of play, he sees the field superbly and he has the skill and athleticism to impose his will on the game."

Gould has maintained a weighted 4.46 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of New Hampshire 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Gould joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Soccer Players of the Year Asa Berolzheimer (2015-16, Hanover High School), Kyle Hicks (2014-15, Pinkerton Academy), 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 High School), and Robbie McLarney (2006-07, Londonderry High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jacob will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

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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