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## **HENDERSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (February 5, 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 **Sydney Zandi of Henderson High School** as its **2014-15 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Zandi is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Henderson 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 Zandi as Pennsylvania's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Zandi 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-5 sophomore midfielder scored 22 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Warriors (10-9) to the Class AAA state playoffs. Zandi missed the first four games of the regular season while abroad training with the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team in South Korea. A two-time First Team All-Ches-Mont National Team selection, she is ranked as the No. 21 recruit in the Class of 2017 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Zandi has maintained a 4.02 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Henderson High Latin Club, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Having trained Sydney for the past five years I have been fortunate to watch her develop into one of the top youth players in the country," said Craig Reed, director of 360 Sports. "With her ability to use both feet and her creativity with the ball at her feet, Sydney is one of the most dynamic 1v1 players I have seen in youth soccer."

Zandi has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning in the fall of 2017.

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.

Zandi joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Megan Schafer (2013-14, Neshaminy High School), Veronica Latsko (2012-13 & 2011-12, Peters Township High School), Kelly Kerrigan (2010-11, Downingtown High School East), Cassie Pecht, (2009-10, Cumberland Valley), Taylor Schram (2008-09, Canon-McMillan), Lauren Alwine (2007-08, Lower Dauphin), and Colleen Flanagan (2006-07, Downingtown West) 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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