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**CHASE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 7, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sarah McCauley of Chase Collegiate School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year. McCauley is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Chase Collegiate 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 McCauley as Connecticut'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, McCauley 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-7 junior forward scored 79 goals and passed for 25 assists this past season, leading the Highlanders (21-1) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class D semifinals. McCauley is a three-time NESPAC Class D All-Star and a two-time All-New England Region selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. She concluded her junior year with 143 goals and 57 assists in her prep soccer career.

McCauley has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of fundraising campaigns to benefit AIDS research as well as the Afghan Youth Sports Exchange, which empowers girls in Afghanistan by teaching them to play soccer.

"What makes Sarah so dangerous is her field awareness and quickness with the ball," said Kyle Halloran, head coach of the Forman School. "She has the ability to take possession all the way down the field if necessary, but if targeted she was incredibly quick with her feet to set up her teammates. While she is a very good player, she also makes every player around her better."

McCauley has verbally committed to attend Yale University, where she will play soccer beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

McCauley joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Players of the Year Paula Hagopian (2011-12, Kingswood Oxford School), Riley Houle (2010 - 11, Windham High School), Kate McCarthy (2009-10, The Loomis Chaffee School), Jessica Schloth (2008-09, St. Joseph High School), Alex Uscilla (2007-08, St. Joseph High School), and Bianca D'Agostino (2006-2007, Loomis Chaffee School) 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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