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**FALMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Caitlin Bucksbaum of Falmouth High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Bucksbaum is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Falmouth 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 Bucksbaum as Maine'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, Bucksbaum 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 returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior midfielder led the Yachtsmen to a 14-2-2 record and a third straight Class B state championship this past season. Bucksbaum scored eight goals and passed for 10 assists, including two assists in Falmouth's state championship run. She is the Maine Sunday Telegram Player of the Year and the 2012 Class B Player of the Year.

Bucksbaum has maintained an A average in the classroom. The treasurer of the Falmouth High senior class, she has volunteered locally with the school's Environmental Action Committee, as a peer math tutor and with Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"Caitlin hurt us because her pace and ability to control the ball in the midfield stymied my midfielders, making them ineffective," said Steve Boyce, head coach of Morse High. "She set up most if not all the goals Falmouth scored against us in each of their one-goal victories."

Bucksbaum has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Villanova University beginning 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.

Two time winner Bucksbaum joins Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Players of the Year Allison Walton (2010-11 & 2009-10, Brunswick High School), Elise Amioka (2008-09, Marshwood High School), Rachele Burns (2007-08, Gorham High School), and Kelsey Wilson (2006-2007, Gorham) 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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