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**NORTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Madison Damm of North Kingstown High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Damm is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from North Kingstown 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 Damm as Rhode Island'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, Damm 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-4 senior midfielder scored 11 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Skippers (9-3-4) to the Division I state quarterfinals. Damm was an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and a two-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 50 goals and 34 assists.

Damm has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach in addition to donating her time at a homeless shelter and at the Sargent Rehabilitation Center in Warwick.

"Madison Damm was the engine that kept her team running," said Martin Yarumian, head coach of Bay View Academy. "She possesses the little extra quality to her that others don't have. It is dangerous to not know where she is at all times."

Damm has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Syracuse 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.

Damm joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year McKenzie Meehan (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, La Salle Academy), Allison Kelley (2009-10 & 2008-09, La Salle Academy), Katie Reilly (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View), and Erica Florenz (2006-2007, Scituate) 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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