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**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**GEORGE JENKINS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 2013) — In its 28<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 Jessie Scarpa of George Jenkins High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Scarpa is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from George Jenkins 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 Scarpa as Florida'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, Scarpa 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 midfielder and forward scored 48 goals and passed for 27 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (24-4-1) to the Class 4A state championship game. Scarpa scored 10 goals in three district tournament games to lead Jenkins to the state postseason tournament. The PolkPreps.com and Lakeland Ledger Player of the Year, she is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team.

Scarpa has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Student Council Executive Board, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of various community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society.

"Jessie Scarpa is a very dynamic and athletic player," said Rosanna Lord, head coach of Melbourne High. "She is faster with the ball than most girls are without it. She has the technical ability to play with either foot and sees the game several moves ahead of other players. She is truly a special talent."

Scarpa has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Scarpa joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Carson Pickett (2011-12, St. John's Country Day School), Meg Casscells-Hamby (2010 - 11, Trinity Preparatory School), Katie Stengel (2009-10, Viera), Laura Weinberg (2008-09 Saint Andrew's School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite), and Ella Stephan (2006-2007, Satellite) 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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