

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MAINE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 6, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Cassie Symonds of Windham High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Symonds is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Windham 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 Symonds 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, Symonds 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 junior midfielder led the Eagles to a 17-0-1 record and the program's first-ever Class A state championship this past season. Symonds scored nine goals and passed for six assists. The 2013 Portland Press Herald Player of the Year, Symonds is a two-time Southern Maine Athletic Association All-State honoree. She concluded her junior year with career totals of 14 goals and 21 assists.

Symonds has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered as part of area beautification projects, as a student mentor and as a youth soccer coach.

"Cassie Symonds was the best all-around player in Maine and certainly the most valuable player to her team," said Mike Farley, head coach of Scarborough High. "She is very solid defensively and a playmaker out of the midfield. Probably the biggest compliment I can pay her is that it is no fun to coach against her."

Symonds will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Symonds joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caitlin Bucksbaum (2012-13 & 2011-12, Falmouth High School), 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 (2006-07, 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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