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**CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Kayla Cappuzzo of Calhoun High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Cappuzzo is the first Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Calhoun 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 Cappuzzo as New York'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, Cappuzzo 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-6 senior midfielder scored seven goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Colts (9-6-3) to the Nassau County finals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Cappuzzo was named the Class AA co-Player of the Year. She is also a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team.

Cappuzzo has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, she has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives, the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, and the Little Angel Fund, which assists the parents of premature infants.

"Cappuzzo is a special, special player," said Adam Hananel, head coach at East Meadow High. "She has tremendous vision and she plays every ball with a purpose. She has the ability to single-handedly change a game."

Cappuzzo has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Northeastern University 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.

Cappuzzo joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alana O'Neill (2012-13, Washingtonville High School), Cari Roccaro (2011-12, East Islip High School), Tatiana Saunders (2010-11, Rye High School), Crystal Dunn, (2009-10, South Side), Kim DeCesare (2008-09, Massapequa High School), Alaina Beyar (2007-08, South Side High School), and Hannah Cerrone (2006-07, Ketcham) 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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