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**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Kara Shaw of Exeter-West Greenwich High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Shaw is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter-West Greenwich 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 Shaw 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, Shaw 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 senior forward scored 13 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Avengers (11-3-3) to the Division I state semifinals. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Shaw is a two-time Providence Journal First Team All-State honoree and was the MVP of the 2012 Division 2 state tournament. She concluded her prep soccer career with 87 goals and 56 assists.

Shaw has maintained a 3.22 GPA in the classroom. The director of her school's Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse committee, she has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a faith-based instructor for kindergarten-age children.

"Kara Shaw is one of the most dominant players I have seen in the state over the 15 years that I have been coaching girls soccer in Rhode Island," said Steve Pickford, head coach of Barrington High. "She led her team not only statistically, but her work ethic and leadership on the field were palpable. Shaw is a player that I had to completely develop a game plan around."

Shaw has verbally committed to attend the College of the Holy Cross, where she will play soccer 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.

Shaw joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Madison Damm (2012-13, North Kingstown High School), 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 (2006-07, 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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