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**PEOPLES ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Katie Stames of Peoples Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stames is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Peoples Academy.

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 Stames as Vermont'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, Stames 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 forward scored 35 goals and passed for 23 assists this past season, leading the Wolves (18-0) to their third consecutive Division 3 state championship. The state's returning Gatorade Vermont Player of the Year, Stames is a two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. The Burlington Free Press Player of the Year, she concluded her prep career with 107 goals and 57 assists.

Stames has maintained an A average in the classroom. Co-president of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food shelf and youth sports programs.

"Stames is a wonderful soccer player," said John Sperry, head coach at Hazen High. "She's highly skilled and has a great sense of the game. She works hard and involves her teammates."

Stames will attend St. Lawrence University this fall, where she will play soccer.

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.

Two-time winner Stames joins Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lauren Bernard (2011-12 & 2010-11, Colchester High School), Brittany Pfaff (2009-10, Rice Memorial), Natalie LeClair (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex High School), and Emily Milbank (2006-07, Champlain Valley Union) 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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