

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 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 Nick Jackson of Sidwell Friends School as its 2013-14 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jackson is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sidwell Friends 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 Jackson as District of Columbia's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Jackson 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-10, 170-pound senior midfielder led the Quakers to a 16-3-2 record and both the Mid-Atlantic Conference and District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association tournament titles. Jackson scored 13 goals and passed for nine assists. A First Team All-Met selection by the Washington Post, he was named the MVP of the DCIAA championship game, stepping in as the goalie and making two saves in the shootout of a 2-1 victory over St. Albans.

Jackson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and has completed a service-mission trip to Africa. He has also donated his time to Martha's Table, which provides need-based assistance in healthy food choices, affordable clothing and quality education.

"Nick Jackson dominated in every game," said Sal Caccavale, head coach of Woodrow Wilson High. "He scored free kicks, headers and in the run of play as well as set up a lot of goals. Not only was he more talented, he outworked everybody and nobody liked playing against him. He's a real tough kid."

Jackson will attend Wesleyan College in Connecticut this fall, where he 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.

Jackson joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nicko Corriveau (2012-13, Gonzaga College High School), Ian Harkes (2011-12, Gonzaga College High School), Joey Wilkins (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Ben Norton, (2009-10, Sidwell Friends School), Chris Perez (2008-09, Gonzaga College), Yoni Berhanu (2007-08, Sidwell Friends School), and Kieran Rice (2006-2007, Gonzaga College High School) 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.

###