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**LAKE PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Mike Catalano of Lake Park High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Catalano is the second Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Park 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 Catalano as Illinois'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, Catalano 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 6-foot, 185-pound senior forward scored 30 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Lancers (21-4-3) to the Class 3A state semifinals. A First Team All-State selection by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association, Catalano was the captain of the Daily Herald All-Area Team and a First Team All-Area honoree by the Chicago Sun-Times. Catalano, who did not play high school soccer as a sophomore or junior, concluded his prep soccer career with 39 goals and 16 assists.

Catalano has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. An employee at Five Guys Burgers and Fries, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee.

"I grew up playing in Illinois and have coached here for nearly 20 years. In that time, Mike Catalano is far and away one of the top players I have seen," said Jim Konrad, head coach of Naperville North High. "Mike controls every facet of the game. He is absolutely unbeatable in the air, tracks defensively, has incredible vision and distribution and can finish. He is the complete player."

Catalano has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Catalano joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Soccer Players of the Year Brandon Medina (2012-13, St. Ignatius College Prep.), Drew Conner (2011-12, Cary-Grove High School), Vince Ciccirelli (2010-11, Peoria Notre Dame High School), Bryan Ciesiulka, (2009-10, Neuqua Valley High School), Tim Zimmer (2008-09, Naperville Central), John Shakon (2007-08, Hinsdale Central), and Anthony Colaizzi (2006-2007, Warren Township) 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.