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**FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 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 Brad Ross of Franklin High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Ross is the second Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Franklin 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 Ross as Tennessee'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, Ross 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-11, 175-pound senior defender has led the Rebels to a 13-0 record entering the Region 6-AAA Tournament semifinals against Antioch High, scheduled for May 13. Ross scored two goals, passed for one assist and anchored a defense that recorded 11 shutouts in 13 games. A 2013 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Ross is the District 11-AAA Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

Ross has maintained a weighted 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer math tutor and as a youth soccer coach.

"Brad Ross is commanding, strong in the air and distributes the ball well," said Giles Cheevers, head coach of Montgomery Bell Academy. "He is an excellent communicator and leader on the field. He anticipates and reads the game well and he's also very good in the tackle and strong in the air."

Ross will attend the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., where he 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.

Ross joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Players of the Year Trey Gill (2012-13, Montgomery Bell Academy), Tim Baker (2011-12, Knoxville Catholic High School), Chandler Gagnon (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Evangelical Christian School), Mark Sherrod (2008-09 Carter High School), Stephen Morrissey (2007-08, Battle Ground Academy), and Tom Webster (2006-2007, Bearden) 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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