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**CAPE HENRY COLLEGIATE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Peter Pearson of Cape Henry Collegiate School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Pearson is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cape Henry Collegiate 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 Pearson as Virginia'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, Pearson 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, 165-pound senior midfielder and forward scored 29 goals and passed for 15 assists this past fall season, leading the Dolphins (16-3-1) to the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association Division I state championship game. The VISAA Division I State Player of the Year, Pearson was a 2013 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. A varsity player since eighth grade, he concluded his five-year prep soccer career with 136 goals and 51 assists.

Pearson has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. An actor in multiple Cape Henry stage productions, he has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and has participated in a fundraising campaign to benefit The Roots of Music, a program that provides New Orleans youth with music education and academic support.

"Peter is the poster boy in our club for training the correct way and also doing the extra things it takes to be a special player," said Mark Waite, Pearson's club coach with Beach FC. "Peter is an exciting attacking player who has explosive quickness over short distances."

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

Pearson joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Suli Dainkeh (2012-13, South Lakes High School), Todd Wharton (2011-12, Deep Run High School), Luis Rendon (2010 - 11, Cosby High School), Ryan Zinkhan (2009-10, Riverbend), Will Bates (2008-09 Thomas Dale High School), Christian McLaughlin (2007-08, Herndon), and Uche Onyeador (2006-2007, Potomac Falls) 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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