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**BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 20, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Claudia Day of Briarwood Christian School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Day is the fourth Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Briarwood Christian 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 Day as Alabama'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, Day 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 senior midfielder scored 40 goals and passed for 18 assists this past season, leading the Lions (14-5-1) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals. A two-time Birmingham News All-Metro First Team selection, she recorded eight hat tricks, including six goals in a 7-2 win over Benjamin Russell High in the first round of the state tournament.

Day has maintained an A average in the classroom. The secretary of the Briarwood Christian School senior class, she has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research and as a youth soccer coach.

"Claudia is as complete a player as you will see in high school soccer," said Ryan Leib, head coach of Briarwood Christian. "She is good with her feet, has great vision with her passes, can score goals, can set up goals and is great in the air."

Day has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Wake Forest University 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.

Day joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Toni Payne (2012-13, Oak Mountain High School), Bailee Hartnett (2011-12, Oak Mountain High School), Simone Charley (2010 - 11, Spain Park High School), Annalika Steyn (2009-10, Spain Park), Lauren Arnold (2008-09, Spain Park), Mary Nicholson (2007-08, Vestavia Hills), and Victoria Frederick (2006-2007, Huntsville) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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