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**PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 20, 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 Gabi Stoian of Pinnacle High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stoian is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinnacle 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 Stoian as Arizona'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, Stoian 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-5 senior midfielder led the Pioneers to a 20-3-3 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Stoian scored 24 goals and passed for nine assists in this, the only soccer season of her high school career. The AZCentral.com Big Schools Player of the Year and the Division I, Section IV Player of the Year, she is ranked as the nation's No. 136 recruit in the Class of 2014 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Stoian has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter and as a peer tutor, youth coach and referee.

"Gabi Stoian makes everyone else around her better," said Matt Smith, head coach of Corona del Sol High. "She had a fantastic year."

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

Stoian joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jaden DeGracie (2012-13 & 2011-12, Highland High School), Rylie Johnson (2010 - 11, Hamilton High School), Hilary Zenuk (2009-10, Highland), Jessica Petznick (2008-09, Xavier College Prep.), and Brittany Cole (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Corona del Sol) 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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