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**EDISON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 MacKenzie Cerda of Edison High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Cerda is the first Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Edison 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 Cerda as California'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, Cerda 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 senior forward scored 13 goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Chargers (12-6-7) to the CIF-Southern Section Division I championship game. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Cerda scored six of Edison's seven postseason goals before sustaining a lacerated liver during a 1-0 win over Foothill High in the sectional semifinals, which forced her to miss the title game. The Southern Section Division I Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 62 goals and 15 assists.

Cerda has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities as well as a soup kitchen and food bank. She has also donated her time at an elder care facility.

"In the sectional tournament, we lost 1-0 to [Edison] and MacKenzie was the whole team," said Neil Powell, head coach of Capistrano Valley. "She scored a wonderful goal and was a handful throughout. She was the best player we played against all year."

Cerda has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at UCLA 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.

Cerda joins recent Gatorade California Girls Soccer Players of the Year Amber Munerlyn (2012-13, Santiago High School), Ryan Walker-Hartshorn (2011-12, Bishop O'Dowd High School), Lauren Bohaboy (2010 - 11, Santa Margarita Catholic High School), Abby Dahlkemper (2009-10, Sacred Heart Prep.), Lauren Matheson (2008-09, Mission Viejo), Teresa Noyola (2007-08, Palo Alto), and Lauren Barnes (2006-2007, Upland) 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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