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**LAKELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Bri Folds of Lakeland Christian School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Folds is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeland 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 Folds as Florida'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, Folds 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-2 sophomore forward scored 56 goals and passed for 41 assists this past season, leading the Vikings (28-1) to the Class 1A state championship game. A two-time Class 1A State Player of the Year, Folds was the 2013 National Christian High Schools National Player of the Year. Ranked as the nation's No. 63 recruit in the Class of 2016 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she concluded her sophomore year with 104 goals and 87 assists in her prep soccer career.

Folds has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and soccer coach.

"Bri Folds is a special player, a true goal-scorer," said Cindy Schofield, head coach of Tampa Prep. "She finds ways to score and carries her team on her shoulders. She doesn't need a lot of time or space to score, she just has an uncanny ability to put the ball in the back of the net."

Folds will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Folds joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jessie Scarpa (2012-13, George Jenkins High School), Carson Pickett (2011-12, St. John's Country Day School), Meg Casscells-Hamby (2010 - 11, Trinity Preparatory School), Katie Stengel (2009-10, Viera), Laura Weinberg (2008-09, Saint Andrew's School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite), and Ella Stephan (2006-2007, Satellite) 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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