

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Jenna Szczesny of Barrington High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Szczesny is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Barrington 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 Szczesny as Illinois'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, Szczesny 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-10 junior forward has led the Fillies to a 14-3-2 record and a berth in the Class 3A Barrington Regional semifinals against Wheeling High, scheduled for May 21. Szczesny scored 22 goals and passed for 14 assists through 15 games, missing four games when her father passed away. The 2014 Mid-Suburban Conference Player of the Year, Szczesny is a two-time First Team All-Section 6-3A selection. She entered the postseason with 55 goals in her prep soccer career.

Szczesny has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. She has participated in fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer research in addition to volunteering as a preschool mentor and as a youth soccer coach.

"Jenna is the most impactful player we have played against all season," said Craig Snower, head coach of Loyola Academy. "She has terrific speed and the ability to finish from all angles. She makes Barrington dangerous at all times."

Szczesny has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the Loyola University Chicago beginning in the fall of 2015.

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.

Szczesny joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Zoe Swift (2012-13, Naperville North High School), Courtney Raetzman (2011-12, Conant High School), Megan Oyster (2010 - 11, Neuqua Valley High School), Vanessa DiBernardo (2009-10, Waubonsie Valley), Rachel Quon (2008-09, Lake Forest), Bri Rodriguez (2007-08, Waubonsie Valley), and Tessa Gavilsky (2006-2007, Granite City) 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).

###