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**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Rose Ripslinger of Assumption High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ripslinger is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Ripslinger as Iowa'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, Ripslinger 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 three-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior forward has led the Knights to an 11-2 record entering this week's regular-season game against Bettendorf High, scheduled for May 20. Ripslinger scored 15 goals and passed for nine assists through 11 games, missing a pair of contests to compete in the Drake Relays, and had recorded 104 goals and 50 assists in her prep soccer career. A three-time Class 1A First Team All-State selection, she is the first soccer player of either gender to earn the Gatorade State Soccer Player of the Year award four times in the award's 29-year history.

Ripslinger has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. The 2013 Class 3A state champion in the 100-meter dash, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities, American Red Cross blood-donation drives, as a youth coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Rose is hands down the best female talent I have ever worked with and is the best Iowa player that I have seen in my 12 years here," said Paul Dayrell, Ripslinger's club coach with the Iowa City Alliance. "Rose has that rare combination of raw athletic ability, electric speed and incredible technical ability that you rarely see."

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

Four-time winner Ripslinger joins Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year MacKenzie Misel (2009-10, Ankeny), Jade Grimm (2008-09, Kennedy), and Whitney Sharpe (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Valley) 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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