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**BLUE VALLEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Parker Roberts of Blue Valley North High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Roberts is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley North 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 Roberts as Kansas'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, Roberts 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 junior midfielder and defender led the Mustangs to a 9-7 record and a berth in the Class 6A Northeast Regional No. 2 Tournament semifinals against Shawnee Mission Northwest High, scheduled for May 19. Roberts scored 15 goals and passed for four assists through 16 games. A two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection, she was the 2013 Eastern Kansas League Midfielder of the Year and the 2012 EKL Offensive Player of the Year.

Roberts has maintained a weighted 3.55 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and completed a service-mission trip to Costa Rica.

"Parker Roberts is a physical force with her strength, power and pace," said Mark Sheldon, the Director of Coaching for the Kansas Youth Soccer Association. "She is technically very good to play the game with skill as well as use her athleticism to be a force on the field."

Roberts has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Miami 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.

Roberts joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Haley Hanson (2012-13, Olathe East High School), Lexi Aiman (2011-12, Blue Valley West High School), Hannah Chadick (2010 - 11, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Ashley Catrell (2009-10, Blue Valley West), Jordan Jackson (2008-09 & 2007-08, Blue Valley West), and Geneva Magness (2006-2007, St. Thomas Aquinas) 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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