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**WEST JONES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Beth Coleman of West Jones High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Coleman is the second Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Jones 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 Coleman as Mississippi'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, Coleman 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 senior midfielder scored 30 goals and passed for 38 assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (20-2-1) to the Class 5A state championship. An All-Region selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Coleman is a two-time First Team All-State selection and was named Miss Soccer by the Clarion-Ledger.

Coleman has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church's youth group and a tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, youth soccer programs, blood-donation drives and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Beth Coleman is an awesome soccer player," said Rick Sager, head coach at Laurel High. "She's lightning fast, with good skills, and she's a real competitor."

Coleman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi 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.

Coleman joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Players of the Year Marion Crowder (2012-13, Madison Central High School), Sara Coleman (2011-12, West Jones High School), Laura Lee Smith (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Jackson Preparatory School), Tricia Tillman (2008-09, Madison Central), Kelsey Myrick (2007-08, Gulfport), and Rachel Givan (2006-2007, Ridgeland) 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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