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**UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Anna Baffer of Union High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Baffer is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Union 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 Baffer as Oklahoma'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, Baffer 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-4 senior midfielder scored 9 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Redskins (15-1) to the Class 6A semifinals. A three-time All-Conference and All-District selection, Baffer was MVP of the Heart of America Classic.

Baffer has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group and children's soccer programs.

"I think what makes her so dangerous is her ability to read the game and her vision to find the player who needs the ball," said David Cosby, head coach at Broken Arrow High. "She commands the middle and distributes the ball extremely well."

Baffer has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Oklahoma State University 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.

Baffer joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Liz Keester (2012-13 & 2010 - 11, Jenks High School), Kaela Little (2011-12, Bishop Kelley High School), Hayley Harryman (2009-10, Edmond North), Caitlin Mooney (2008-09, Edmond Sante Fe), Katie Bykowski (2007-08, Bishop Kelley), and Rebecca Allen (2006-2007, Jenks) 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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