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**SOUTH OLDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 5, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Stephanie Rowland of South Oldham High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Rowland is the fourth Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Oldham 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 Rowland as Kentucky'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, Rowland 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-3 senior forward led the Dragons to a 23-4 record and the state championship this past season. Rowland scored 43 goals and passed for 12 assists, including all four goals in South Oldham's 4-1 win over Owensboro Catholic High in the state title game. The 2014 State Tournament MVP, Rowland tallied 20 goals and four assists in nine postseason games. A 2014 All-South Region selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she concluded her prep soccer career with 120 goals.

Rowland has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A member of the South Oldham High Broadcast Journalism Club, she has volunteered locally at a daycare center and with her school's Link Crew as a mentor to younger students.

"Stephanie Rowland is the real deal; she single-handedly beat us," said Durand Engineer, head coach of Owensboro Catholic High. "They had a system that meant getting her the ball and they executed it very well. She was lethal in front of goal against us."

Rowland has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Ohio University beginning 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.

Rowland joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mallory Eubanks (2013-14, Tates Creek High School), Libby Leedom (2012-13 & 2011-12, St. Henry District High School), Arin Gilliland (2010-11, West Jessamine High School), Jackie Hafele, (2009-10, Sacred Heart Academy), Nikki Hafele (2008-09, Sacred Heart Academy), Jenna Goblirsch (2007-08, Elizabethtown High School), and Sydney Hiance (2006-07, Highlands) 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.