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**WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 5, 2015) — In its 30<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 Cassie Symonds of Windham High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Symonds is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Windham 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 Symonds as Maine'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, Symonds 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior midfielder led the Eagles to a 17-0-1 record and a second straight Class A state championship this past season. Symonds scored six goals and passed for 10 assists, including a pair of set-ups in Windham's 5-1 win over Edward Little High in the state title game. A two-time Southern Maine Athletic Association First Team All-State selection, she was a back-to-back winner of the Portland Press Herald Player of the Year award. She concluded her prep soccer career with 20 goals and 31 assists.

Symonds has maintained a weighted A-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a student mentor, a youth soccer coach and as part of community beautification projects.

"Cassie just had a knack for being in the right place at the right time," said Arthur Mosen, head coach of Portland High. "She seemed to be able to play at another level than everybody on the field when the pressure was really on to perform."

Symonds has verbally committed to attend the College of the Holy Cross this fall, where she will play soccer.

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.

Two-time winner Symonds joins Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caitlin Bucksbaum (2012-13 & 2011-12, Falmouth High School), Allison Walton (2010-11 & 2009-10, Brunswick High School), Elise Amioka (2008-09, Marshwood High School), Rachele Burns (2007-08, Gorham High School), and Kelsey Wilson (2006-07, Gorham) 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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