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MCDONOGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Bridgette Andrzejewski of McDonogh School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Andrzejewski is the third Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from McDonogh 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 Andrzejewski as Maryland'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, Andrzejewski 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 forward led the Eagles to a 15-0 record and the Independent Athletic Association of Maryland Class A Tournament title this past season. Andrzejewski scored 32 goals and passed for 11 assists in 13 games, missing a pair of contests while attending a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-20 Women's National Team. Also the 2014 National High School Girls Soccer Player of the Year as named by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she earned All-Metro Girls Soccer Player of the Year honors from the Baltimore Sun and will enter her senior year as a three-time First Team All-State selection. Ranked as the No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2016 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she concluded her junior year with 76 goals and 29 assists in her prep soccer career.

Andrzejewski has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and has also completed a service-mission trip to Nicaragua.

"Bridgette is so deadly when she is faced out running at players," said Ashly Kennedy, head coach of Archbishop Spalding High. "She can gain a ton of space in her first two steps with the ball and is very deliberate in how she breaks down opponents."

Andrzejewski has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2016.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Andrzejewski joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Players of the Year Imani Dorsey (2013-14, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Midge Purce (2012-13, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Ashley Spivey, (2011-12, McDonogh School), Alex Doll (2010-11 & 2009-10, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School), Caroline Miller (2008-09, Walter Johnson High School), and Christine Nairn (2007-08 & 2006-07, Archbishop Spalding High School), 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.