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**SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Keri Cavallo of South Side High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Cavallo is the third Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Side 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 Cavallo as New York'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, Cavallo 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-5 senior forward scored 19 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Cyclones (15-4-1) to the Class A state final. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Cavallo was named both the Class A Player of the Year and the Long Island Player of the Year.

Cavallo has maintained an A average in the classroom. A peer tutor at her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs.

"Cavallo is a great player," said Janine Bizelia, head coach at Mepham High. "She's fast and tenacious with good vision and tremendous touch on the ball. She's the type of player who always makes something happen."

Cavallo will attend Yale University 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.

Cavallo joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kayla Cappuzzo (2013-14, Calhoun High School), Alana O'Neill (2012-13, Washingtonville High School), Cari Roccaro, (2011-12, East Islip High School), Tatiana Saunders (2010-11, Rye High School), Crystal Dunn, (2009-10, South Side), Kim DeCesare (2008-09, Massapequa High School), Alaina Beyar (2007-08, South Side High School), and Hannah Cerrone (2006-07, Ketcham) 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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