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## **PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Marykate McGuire of Portsmouth High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. McGuire is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Portsmouth 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 McGuire as Rhode Island'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, McGuire 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-6 freshman midfielder led the Patriots to a 13-4-4 record and the Division I state championship this past season. McGuire scored 27 goals and passed for eight assists, setting up Portsmouth's only regulation goal in its 2-1 shootout win over La Salle Academy in the state title game. The 2014 Newport Daily News Player of the Year and an All-New England selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region I Olympic Development Program team and is ranked as the No. 51 recruit in the Class of 2018 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

McGuire has maintained an A average in the classroom. A clarinetist in her middle school band, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Marykate McGuire is the real deal," said Kevin Fraser, head coach of Exeter/West Greenwich High. "I have been coaching high school soccer for 20 years, and she is already one of the top five players to come through Rhode Island. With her being a freshman, that is quite a statement and one I do not make lightly."

McGuire will begin her sophomore year of high school 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.

McGuire joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kara Shaw (2013-14, Exeter-West Greenwich High School), Madison Damm (2012-13, North Kingstown High School), McKenzie Meehan, (2011-12 & 2010-11, La Salle Academy), Allison Kelley, (2009-10 & 2008-09, La Salle Academy), Katie Reilly (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View), and Erica Florenz (2006-07, Scituate) 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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