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**PADUA ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 19, 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 Karlina Panella of Padua Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Panella is the fourth Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Padua Academy.

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 Panella as Delaware'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, Panella 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-4 senior midfielder and forward has led the Pandas to a 14-0-1 record entering the Division 1 state tournament. Panella scored 15 goals and passed for 10 assists in the regular season. A First Team All-State selection, she has helped Padua Academy to three straight state titles and a current No. 16 ranking nationally according to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Panella has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and multiple youth sports programs.

"Panella plays incredibly hard on both sides of the ball," said Paul Booton, head coach at Dover High. "She sees the field so well, and everything goes through her. She's the engine of that team."

Panella has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Delaware 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.

Panella joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alexis Prillaman (2013-14 & 2012-13, Caesar Rodney High School), Casey Horney (2011-12, Padua Academy), Caitlin Forte (2010-11, Indian River High School), Jazmine Reeves (2009-10 & 2008-09, Caesar Rodney), Morgan Morrow (2007-08, Padua Academy), and Brittny Rhoades (2006-07, Padua Academy) 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.

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