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**ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Chelsea Burns of St. Johns Country Day School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Burns is the second Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Johns Country Day 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 Burns as Florida'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, Burns 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-8 senior midfielder led the Spartans to a 23-2 record and a third straight Class 1A state championship this past season. Burns scored 31 goals and passed for 25 assists, including a pair of goals in a 4-0 win over Lakeland Christian School in the state final. The Florida Dairy Farmers Class 1A State Player of the Year, Burns is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep soccer career, which included two years at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, with 81 goals and 64 assists.

Burns has maintained a weighted 4.32 GPA in the classroom. A second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, she has volunteered locally on multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit autism research and as a middle-school math and science tutor.

"Chelsea Burns displays a will to win and [strong] leadership," said Dave Silverberg, head coach of Ponte Vedra High. "She plays every game, every minute like it is her last. That competitive mentality separates her from other players."

Burns has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Duke University beginning 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.

Burns joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Bri Folds (2013-14, Lakeland Christian School), Jessie Scarpa (2012-13, George Jenkins High School), Carson Pickett (2011-12, St. Johns Country Day School), Meg Casscells-Hamby (2010-11, Trinity Preparatory School), Katie Stengel (2009-10, Viera High School), Laura Weinberg (2008-09, Saint Andrew's School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite), and Ella Stephan (2006-07, Satellite) 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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