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ANKENY CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 Meg Brandt of Ankeny Centennial High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Brandt is the second Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Ankeny Centennial 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 Brandt as Iowa'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, Brandt 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 junior midfielder had led the Jaguars to a 10-4 record at the time of her selection. Brandt scored nine goals and passed for five assists through 14 games. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team, she was the Class 3A Tournament MVP as a freshman at Ankeny High in 2013.

Brandt has maintained a weighted 3.28 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Ankeny Centennial student council, she has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit the Children's Miracle Network and as a youth soccer and basketball referee.

"Meg Brandt is an excellent player with great touch and control of the game," said Bobby Myers, head coach of Ames High. "Probably every threatening moment they had against us started with her. Passing, shooting, dribbling—she has it all."

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

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.

Brandt joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year Rose Ripslinger (2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Assumption High School), MacKenzie Misel (2009-10, Ankeny High School), Jade Grimm (2008-09, Kennedy High School), and Whitney Sharpe (2007-08 & 2006-07, Valley 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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