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## **PORT HURON NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 19, 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 Hannah Jones of Port Huron Northern High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Port Huron Northern 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 Jones as Michigan'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, Jones 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-7 junior midfielder had led the Huskies to a 6-5-4 record at the time of her selection. Jones scored 15 goals and passed for five assists through 15 games. The two-time Port Huron Times-Herald Area Player of the Year, she is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team and is rated as the No. 63 recruit in the nation for the Class of 2016 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Jones has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked No. 1 in her class. An accomplished artist, she won a Gold Key at the 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing awards for an original painting. She has volunteered locally as a lifeguard and swim teacher in addition to serving on the Port Huron Northern student council.

"I knew going into our game that Hannah was going to be a major threat," said James Leutzinger, head coach of Romeo High. "She has the capability to take over the game and she did against us. Her speed, aggression and knowledge of the game is superior to others."

Jones has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Michigan State University 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Players of the Year Megan Buckingham (2013-14, Northville High School), Madi Lewis (2012-13 & 2011-12, Plymouth High School), Olivia Brannon (2010-11, Athens High School), Annie Steinlage (2009-10, Spring Lake), Olivia Stander (2008-09, Grosse Pointe High School), and Laura Heyboer (2007-08 & 2006-07, Unity Christian) 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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