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**DREHER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Kasey Parker of Dreher High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Parker is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Dreher 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 Parker as South Carolina'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, Parker 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 forward had led the Blue Devils to a 20-2 record and a berth in the Class 3A state championship game at the time of her selection. Parker scored 54 goals and passed for 10 assists through 22 games. A two-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection, she entered the state final with 128 goals and 27 assists in her prep soccer career.

Parker has maintained a weighted 4.03 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Multiple Sclerosis research and has participated in leadership conferences for the South Carolina High School Association and the Marcus Lattimore Foundation.

"Kasey Parker can take over a game in just a few minutes when she wants to," said John Mills, head coach of Richland Northeast High. "Her speed and physical nature are assets she uses well. Her skill level is above all others."

Parker has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Parker joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jeni Erickson (2013-14, J.L. Mann Academy), Chelsea Drennan (2012-13, T.L. Hanna High School), Stephanie DeVita (2011-12, 2010-11 & 2009-10, Hillcrest High School), Sarah Schaidle (2008-09, Mauldin High School), and Kira Campbell (2007-08 & 2006-07, Lexington) 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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