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**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 23, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Tayler Estrada of Bentonville High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Estrada is the fourth Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Estrada as Arkansas' 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, Estrada 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 led the Tigers to a 15-4-2 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. The returning Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Estrada scored 17 goals and passed for six assists in 2012. A two-time 7A West Conference Player of the Year, Estrada was a 2011 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. She concluded her junior year with 42 goals and 26 assists in her prep career.

Estrada has maintained a 3.55 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at an area homeless shelter, an animal shelter and with the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter's participation in the Toys for Tots program.

"When Tayler Estrada is not on the field that team is not that dangerous," said Chris Leshinski, head coach of rival Heritage High. "The game-plan is to mark Tayler and take her out of the game. She is the one who you cannot let beat her."

Estrada has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kansas beginning in the fall of 2013.

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 ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Two-time winner Estrada joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anne Mitchell, (2009-10, Fayetteville), April Miller (2008-09 Bentonville), Mary Pat Hardin (2007-08, Mount St. Mary Academy), and Alyvia Rogers (2006-07, Rogers) 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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