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**BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Lexi Aiman of Blue Valley West High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Aiman is the fourth Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley West 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 Aiman as Kansas' 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, Aiman 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-2 senior midfielder led the Jaguars to a 15-1-2 record entering the Class 6A state quarterfinals, scheduled for May 22. Aiman scored 20 goals and passed for 26 assists through 18 games. The 2012 Eastern Kansas League Most Valuable Player, Aiman was also the 2011 EKL Co-Offensive Player of the Year and a 2010 Class 6A First Team All-State selection when she led Blue Valley West to its second straight state title. She entered the state quarterfinals with 60 goals and a school-record 81 assists in her prep soccer career.

Aiman has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished violinist, she has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign for breast cancer research and as a youth mentor and soccer coach.

"It didn't matter what we did, Lexi Aiman found a way around it," said Janna Kepler, head coach of Lawrence High. "If we contained her, she dissected our defense with passes. If we pressured her, she was able to cut, turn or dribble around us. She's a great player."

Aiman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Fort Hays State 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 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.

Aiman joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Hannah Chadick (2010 - 11, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Ashley Catrell, (2009-10, Blue Valley West), Jordan Jackson (2007-08 & 2008-09, Blue Valley West), and Geneva Magness (2006-07, St. Thomas Aquinas) 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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