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**PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Madi Lewis of Plymouth High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Lewis is the second Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Plymouth 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 Lewis 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, Lewis 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-5 junior forward led the Wildcats to a 12-2-3 record entering this week's regular-season contest against Waterford Mott High, scheduled for May 23. Lewis scored 21 goals and passed for 23 assists through 17 games, including seven multi-goal performances in her first year of playing high school soccer. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team, Lewis is the No. 17-rated recruit in the Class of 2013 by ESPNHS.

Lewis has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Washtenaw County 4-H Club, she has volunteered locally with the Michigan Humane Society and as a peer English tutor.

"Madi Lewis is the best player I have seen this year," said Dave Hebestreit, head coach of rival Livonia Churchill High. "Our entire game-plan was to eliminate service into her, knowing if we did that the rest of the team would not hurt us as much as she could."

Lewis has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Players of the Year Olivia Brannon (2010 - 11, Athens High School), Annie Steinlage, (2008-09 & 2009-10, Spring Lake), Laura Heyboer (2006-07 & 2007-08, Unity Christian) and Robyn Anne Morrell (1999-2000, Plymouth 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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