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**MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 23, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Jackie Tondl of Marian High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Tondl is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian 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 Tondl as Nebraska'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, Tondl 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-10 senior defender led the Crusaders to a 20-1 record and the Class A state title this past season. Tondl scored 11 goals and passed for four assists while anchoring a defense that allowed just three goals in 21 games with 10 straight shutouts to end the season. A two-time Super State First Team selection and an Academic All-State honoree, Tondl was a four-year starter for Marian. The Crusaders allowed 15 goals in Tondl's 83 career games, an average of 0.18 goals against per contest.

Tondl has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity, as a youth soccer coach and as a mentor to Marian High freshmen.

"Jackie Tondl is such a leader in the back for her team," said Sara Fjell, head coach of rival Bellevue East High. "She is the main reason Marian has not been scored on much in the past four seasons. She is strong out of the air and can handle any player in the state 1-on-1."

Tondl has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Texas A&M University 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.

Tondl joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mayme Conroy (2010 - 11, Skutt Catholic High School), Katie Pickinpaugh, (2009-10, Millard West), Allie Adam (2008-09 Millard West), and Molly Thomas (2006-07 & 2007-08, Millard North) 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.

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