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**DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Emily Wendorff of Davies High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Wendorff is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Davies 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 Wendorff as North Dakota'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, Wendorff 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 led the Eagles to a 12-3-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest with Fargo North, scheduled for May 22. Wendorff scored 19 goals and passed for 13 assists through 16 games. She was a First Team All-State selection as a sophomore.

Wendorff has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A member of her school's environmental club, she has volunteered locally as a Sunday school teacher.

"Wendorff does a lot of great things on the field," said James Moe, head coach at West Fargo High. "She has great timing and she's such a team leader too. She helps create things just by her presence."

Wendorff will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Wendorff joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Tessa Neameyer (2010 - 11, Century High School), Jenae Dabill, (2009-10, Jamestown), Hannah Langseth (2008-09 Shanley), and Rachael Loomis (2006-07 & 2007-08, Fargo South), and 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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