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**CEDARBURG HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Josee Stiever of Cedarburg High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stiever is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cedarburg 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 Stiever as Wisconsin'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, Stiever 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 Bulldogs to a 13-0-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest with Milwaukee Lutheran, scheduled for May 22. Stiever scored seven goals and passed for six assists through 14 games. An All-Region selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she was also a First Team All-State honoree and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Player of the Year in 2011.

Stiever has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally serving meals to the homeless and coaching youth sports teams.

"Stiever is the engine for Cedarburg," said Tony Quintero, head coach at Nicolet High. "She has multiple tools and she brings a lot of speed and tenacity to the game. She's a very smart player."

Stiever has verbally committed to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Stiever joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Morgan LaPlant (2010 - 11, La Follette High School), Alex Melin, (2009-10, Verona Area), Taylor Madigan (2008-09 Waunakee), Laurel Ragalie (2007-08, Bradford), and Jennifer Baumann (2006-07, Catholic Memorial) 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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