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**NATIONAL CATHEDRAL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 7, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Emily Hester of National Cathedral School as its 2012-13 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hester is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from National Cathedral 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 Hester as District of Columbia'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, Hester 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-8 senior midfielder led the Eagles to a 15-2-3 record and the Independent School League Tournament title as well as the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament championship this past season. Hester scored eight goals and passed for eight assists. A four-time First Team All-ISL pick, she was a 2012 Washington Post First Team All-Met selection.

Hester has maintained a 3.12 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Cathedral School student government, she has volunteered locally as a peer mentor, a student ambassador and as a youth soccer coach.

"Emily Hester is a very intelligent player. She is also an absolute workhorse," said Chloe Beizer, head coach of the Maret School. "She's crafty, she's also a great distributor, she's got excellent vision and nearly perfect ball-placement."

Hester has verbally committed to attend Amherst College in Amherst, Mass., where she will play soccer beginning 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Hester joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kara Wilson (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Sidwell Friends School), Taylor Bryant (2009-10, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Bailey Bodell (2008-09, St. John's College High School), and Tiffany McCarty (2007-08 & 2006-2007, St. John's College 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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