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**POST FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Kelcie Hedge of Post Falls High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hedge is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Post Falls 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 Hedge as Idaho'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, Hedge 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 sophomore midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Trojans (13-7) to the Class 5A state championship game. The 2012 Idaho High School Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, Hedge was the state's Offensive Player of the Year and is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her sophomore year with 42 goals in her prep soccer career.

Hedge has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and soccer coach.

"Kelcie Hedge is a special player," said Skyler Bell, the state's Olympic Development Program's assistant director. "Technically she is very strong. She can beat players off the dribble once she is faced-up, and she does it in a variety of ways. She has a great understanding of the game tactically and makes consistent good decisions."

Hedge will begin her junior 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 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.

Hedge joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Brooke Heidemann (2011-12, Rocky Mountain High School), Sofia Huerta (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Centennial High School), Miah Mollay (2008-09, Boise High School), Halley Kreminski (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Brandy Hickcox (2006-2007, Capital) 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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