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**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Midge Purce of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Purce is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Our Lady of Good Counsel 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 Purce as Maryland'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, Purce 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-5 senior forward led the Falcons to a 16-1-2 record and the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tournament title this past season. Purce scored 27 goals and passed for four assists, including both goals in a 2-0 win over Bishop O'Connell in the WCAC championship game. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team, Purce missed four games early in the season to participate in the U-17 World Cup in Azerbaijan. A two-time Washington Post All-Met Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 101 goals and 39 assists.

Purce has maintained a 3.98 weighted GPA in the classroom. The 2012 Scholar Athlete of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth soccer coach.

"Midge singlehandedly scored three or four goals against us. I tried to block the game from my memory," said Rebecca Vaccaro, head coach of Georgetown Visitation School. "She's quick, she has excellent ball skills and she has an extremely well-placed shot. Moreover, she was also dynamic because she was allowed to roam, which gave her the freedom to show up wherever play was."

Purce has made a verbal commitment to attend Harvard University 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.

Purce joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ashley Spivey, (2011-12, McDonogh School), Alex Doll (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School), Caroline Miller (2008-09, Walter Johnson High School), and Christine Nairn (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Archbishop Spalding 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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