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**WALSH JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Sandra Yu of Walsh Jesuit High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Yu is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Walsh Jesuit 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 Yu as Ohio'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, Yu 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 2010-11 Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior midfielder led the Warriors to a 22-0-2 record and the Division II state title this past season. Yu scored 16 goals and passed for 20 assists, including a goal and an assist in a 5-0 win over St. Francis DeSales High in the state final. The 2012 Ohio Soccer Coaches Association Miss Soccer and the Cleveland Plain Dealer Player of the Year, Yu is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team pool. She concluded her prep soccer career with 52 goals and 50 assists.

Yu has maintained a 4.19 unweighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at assisted living facilities, with the Salvation Army and as a youth soccer mentor and coach.

"Sandra has all the tools," said Phil Simone, head coach of Canfield High. "Her first touch, knowing what she is going to do with the ball before she receives it, speed of play, vision, skill level and pure athleticism put her far and above any player I saw this year."

Yu has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Two time winner Yu joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ashley Meier (2011-12, Strongsville High School), Elizabeth Burchenal (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Ursula Academy), Tahnai Annis (2007-08, Pickerington High School North), and Rose Augustin (2006-2007, Walsh Jesuit) 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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