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**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Michelle Newhouse of Capital High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Newhouse is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Newhouse as West Virginia'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, Newhouse 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 goalkeeper recorded eight shutouts with a .769 save percentage this past season, leading the Cougars (10-11-1) to the Class AAA, Region 3 semifinals. A 2012 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Newhouse was the 2012 West Virginia Soccer Coaches Association's Class AAA Player of the Year and a three-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 30 shutouts.

Newhouse has maintained a 3.85 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally mowing lawns and shoveling snow for the elderly, at an animal shelter, as a youth basketball coach and on behalf of the Salvation Army.

"Michelle Newhouse was the best player I saw in 2012," said Mike Shrewsbury, head coach of Poca High. "I believe she has the potential to be very good at the next level. When surrounded by better players she will excel. She would have made any team in West Virginia a better team with her presence in goal."

Newhouse has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of West Virginia 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.

Newhouse joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Haleigh Hoff (2011-12, Winfield High School), Sami Molina (2010 - 11, Cabell Midland High School), Whitney Cavender (2009-10, University), Sarah Cogswell (2008-09, Jefferson High School), Megan Johnson (2007-08, George Washington High School), and Kim Abcouwer (2006-2007, Charleston Catholic) 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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