

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 19, 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 Dewey Lewis of Rockford High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Lewis is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rockford 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 Lewis as Michigan's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Lewis 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-10, 160-pound senior forward scored 18 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Rams (17-3-4) to the Division 1, District 4 semifinals. The 2012 Michigan Soccer Coaches Association's Mr. Soccer, Lewis was a 2012 Dream Team selection and an All-American honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He concluded his prep soccer career with 58 goals and 39 assists.

Lewis has maintained a weighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of a literacy-outreach program, as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research.

"When we played Rockford, it was clear Dewey Lewis was the best player on the field every time he touched the ball," said Aaron Dean, head coach of Grand Haven High. "He was the only player this year that after the game the entire team was like 'What that kid did today was amazing.'"

Lewis has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Michigan State University 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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zach Carroll (2011-12, Grand Blanc High School), Dzenan Catic (2010-11, East Kentwood High School), Soony Saad, (2009-10, Dearborn High School), Kevin Cope (2008-09 Salem), and Casey Townsend (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Traverse City West) 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.

###