

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**ROLLING MEADOWS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ILLINOIS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 14, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jackie Kempf of Rolling Meadows High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Kempf is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rolling Meadows 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 court, distinguishes Kempf as Illinois's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Kempf joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 junior point guard averaged 20.0 points, 7.6 assists, 3.3 steals and 2.3 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Mustangs (31-4) to the Class 4A state championship game. The two-time Mid-Suburban East Player of the Year, Kempf shot 47 percent from the field, 30 percent from 3-point range and 73 percent from the free throw line. In seven postseason games, Kempf averaged 13.1 points and 6.6 assists. She led Illinois Elite's 17U squad to the Amateur Athletic Union state title this past May.

Kempf has maintained a 5.34 weighted GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. In addition to donating her time as a youth soccer and basketball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and a youth literacy-outreach program.

"She's fantastic," said Mary Fendley, head coach of rival Hersey High. "She's impossible to guard. She's very unselfish and always has a calm demeanor. I don't think I've ever coached or coached against a better point guard."

Kempf will begin her senior 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.

Kempf joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Players of the Year Morgan Tuck (2011-12, Bolingbrook High School), Ariel Massengale (2010-11, Bolingbrook High School), Tricia Liston (2009-10 & 2008-09, Fenwick), Sarah Boothe (2007-08, Warren Township), and Brittany Johnson (2006-07, East Richland) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###