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## **IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE IOWA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 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 Mueng Sunday of Iowa City West High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Sunday is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Iowa City West 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 Sunday as Iowa'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, Sunday 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-9, 170-pound senior defensive midfielder led the Trojans to a 12-1 record entering this week's regular-season game against Jefferson High, scheduled for May 13. Sunday scored two goals and passed for six assists and led a defense that had allowed only four goals during the team's first 13 games—just one in the past nine. A 2012 Class 3A First Team All-State selection, he has helped lead Iowa City West to back-to-back Class 3A state championships.

Sunday has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Mueng Sunday has the most influence on the game of anyone," said Steve Robertson, head coach of Kennedy High. "Not many times in your pre-game talk to your team do you talk about having to stop a defensive midfielder, but that is what he can do if you don't account for him."

Sunday has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Drake 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.

Sunday joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Eric Williams (2011-12, Valley High School), Gabe Christianson (2010-11, Kennedy High School), Erik Boyer (2009-10, Kennedy), Husref Jupic (2008-09, Hoover High School), Hunter Kennedy (2007-08, Washington), and Charlie Schwartz (2006-07, Bettendorf) 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).

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