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Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 14, 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 Suli Dainkeh of South Lakes High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Dainkeh is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Lakes 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 Dainkeh as Virginia'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, Dainkeh 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-11, 165-pound senior defensive midfielder led the Seahawks to a 12-1 record entering the Liberty District Tournament quarterfinals against Stone Bridge High, scheduled for May 13. Dainkeh scored three goals and passed for one assist through 13 games and anchored a defense that allowed just six goals. A 2012 Washington Post First Team All-Met selection, he is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Men's National Team and traveled to the Netherlands with the national team this past fall.

Dainkeh has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and soccer coach.

"Suli is about as good a player as I have seen at this level," said Scott Racek, head coach of Edison High. "His footwork is awesome, and most significantly he is a pure distributor of the ball. He doesn't try to do too much but he can take over a game when he needs to. He makes everyone around him better."

Dainkeh has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Dainkeh joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Todd Wharton (2011-12, Deep Run High School), Luis Rendon (2010-11, Cosby High School), Ryan Zinkhan (2009-10, Riverbend), Will Bates (2008-09, Thomas Dale High School), Christian McLaughlin (2007-08, Herndon), and Uche Onyeador (2006-07, Potomac Falls) 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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