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**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 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 Tayler Estrada of Bentonville High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Estrada is the third Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Estrada as Arkansas'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, Estrada 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 state's two-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior midfielder led the Tigers to a 16-3-1 record and the Class 7A state title this past season. Estrada scored 20 goals and passed for 24 assists. The two-time 7A West Conference Player of the Year, Estrada is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a two-time All-American honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. She concluded her prep soccer career with 62 goals and 50 assists.

Estrada has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at the Bentonville High Booster Club's concession stand, an animal shelter and the Toys for Tots program at the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter.

"Tayler Estrada is explosive, she's fast and she's very technical," said Franklin Jennings, head coach of Springdale High. "She has a knack for scoring goals, and her vision and decision-making skills are impeccable. I love to watch her play the game."

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

Three-time winner Estrada joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anne Mitchell (2009-10, Fayetteville), April Miller (2008-09 Bentonville), Mary Pat Hardin (2007-08, Mount St. Mary Academy), and Alyvia Rogers (2006-2007, Rogers) 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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