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Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**SANTIAGO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 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 Amber Munerlyn of Santiago High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Munerlyn is the first Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Santiago 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 Munerlyn as California'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, Munerlyn 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-6 senior forward scored 19 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Sharks (19-6-4) to the CIF-Southern Section Division II quarterfinals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-20 Women's National Team, Munerlyn was the Big VIII League MVP despite missing 13 games due to various national team commitments. She concluded her prep soccer career with 63 goals and 17 assists.

Munerlyn has maintained a weighted 3.76 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and teacher's aide in addition to donating her time as a youth soccer coach.

"Amber could really change the game with her speed and intellect," said Nick Lopiccio, head coach of Roosevelt High. "She always seemed to score when they needed it to put us away. When she wanted to take it to that next level she did, and rarely did it not work in Santiago's favor."

Munerlyn has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Munerlyn joins recent Gatorade California Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ryan Walker-Hartshorn (2011-12, Bishop O'Dowd High School), Lauren Bohaboy (2010 - 11, Santa Margarita Catholic High School), Abby Dahlkemper (2009-10, Sacred Heart Prep.), Lauren Matheson (2008-09 Mission Viejo), Teresa Noyola (2007-08, Palo Alto), and Lauren Barnes (2006-2007, Upland) 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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