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**MOUNTAIN VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Gabbi Miranda of Mountain Vista High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Miranda is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Vista 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 Miranda as Colorado'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, Miranda 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-7 senior defender and midfielder has led the Golden Eagles to an 18-1 record and a berth in the Class 5A state final against Rock Canyon High, scheduled for May 22. Miranda scored eight goals and passed for five assists through 19 games, and anchored a Mountain Vista defense that has surrendered just six goals. A starter for the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Azerbaijan last fall, she is the No. 2-rated recruit in the Class of 2013 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Miranda has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth soccer coach.

"Gabbi Miranda is a very well-rounded player," said Justin Stephens, head coach of Fort Collins High. "She can attack and create and is a great striker of the ball. She also provides a great defensive presence."

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

Miranda joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Players of the Year Janine Beckie (2011-12, Valor Christian High School), Annie Kunz (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Wheat Ridge High School), Olivia Wagner (2008-09 Dawson School), Beth West (2007-08, Grandview), and Brittney MacDonald (2006-2007, J.K. Mullen) 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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