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**NAPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Zoe Swift of Naperville North High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Swift is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Naperville North 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 Swift as Illinois'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, Swift 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-10 senior forward has led the Huskies to a 17-0-2 record and a berth in the Class 3A Bolingbrook Regional semifinals against Neuqua Valley High, scheduled for May 22. Swift scored 10 goals and passed for 10 assists in 11 games, missing seven games early in the season with an ankle injury. A two-time Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association All-State honoree, she was a 2012 First Team All-State selection by the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Swift has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Zoe's movement from sideline to sideline is by far the best," said Dan Radz, head coach of Lincoln-Way Central High. "She is extremely dangerous in the attacking third. If you lose sight of her she's making a run to show for the ball. She is extremely deceiving."

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

Swift joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Courtney Raetzman (2011-12, Conant High School), Megan Oyster (2010 - 11, Neuqua Valley High School), Vanessa DiBernardo (2009-10, Waubonsie Valley), Rachel Quon (2008-09 Lake Forest), Bri Rodriguez (2007-08, Waubonsie Valley), and Tessa Gavilsky (2006-2007, Granite City) 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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