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Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 Rose Ripslinger of Assumption High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ripslinger is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Ripslinger as Iowa'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, Ripslinger 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-5 junior forward has led the Knights to a 12-1 record entering this week's regular-season game against Burlington High, scheduled for May 21. Ripslinger scored 18 goals and passed for 10 assists through 13 games. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team, Ripslinger is a two-time Class 1A First Team All-State selection and the 2012 *Quad City Times* Female Athlete of the Year.

Ripslinger has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at the Ronald McDonald House, American Red Cross blood-donation drives, as a youth coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Rose has an ability to see the field two or sometimes three passes ahead," said Rob Eckert, head coach of Assumption High. "Her breakaway speed allows her to track down balls that she is sometimes already 10 yards behind the defender. She can shoot the ball with power or place it with finesse. She leads both by example on and off the field."

Ripslinger has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Iowa beginning in the fall of 2014.

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 Ripslinger joins Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year MacKenzie Misel (2009-10, Ankeny), Jade Grimm (2008-09 Kennedy), and Whitney Sharpe (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Valley), 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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