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**OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Haley Hanson of Olathe East High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hanson is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe East 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 Hanson as Kansas'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, Hanson 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 junior midfielder has led the Hawks to a 14-2-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A state quarterfinals against Blue Valley Northwest High, scheduled for May 21. Hanson scored 13 goals and passed for 16 assists through 17 games. She was a 2012 First Team All-Sunflower League selection and a 2012 Second Team All-Region honoree by the Northeast Kansas Soccer Coaches Association.

Hanson has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. A representative on the Olathe East High student council, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Haley Hanson is a blue collar, great work ethic type of player," said Huw Williams, Hanson's club coach with Sporting Blue Valley. "But she is also much more as she is technical and powerful. She also creates and scores goals and is very versatile."

Hanson has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Hanson joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lexi Aiman (2011-12, Blue Valley West High School), Hannah Chadick (2010 - 11, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Ashley Catrell (2009-10, Blue Valley West), Jordan Jackson (2008-09 & 2007-08 Blue Valley West), and Geneva Magness (2006-2007, St. Thomas Aquinas) 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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