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**MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Marion Crowder of Madison Central High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Crowder is the second Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison Central 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 Crowder as Mississippi'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, Crowder 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-1 senior forward scored 37 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Jaguars (18-3-2) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation U-18 Women's National Team, Crowder is a First Team All-State selection and was named Miss Soccer by the Clarion-Ledger.

Crowder has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, food drives to benefit the needy and a homeless shelter.

"She's extremely quick and her first step is outstanding," said Thomas Bobo, head coach at Clinton High. "She has a great knack for scoring goals. She's always been the one player you have to account for at all times."

Crowder has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Georgia 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.

Crowder joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sara Coleman (2011-12, West Jones High School), Laura Lee Smith (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Jackson Preparatory School), Tricia Tillman (2008-09 Madison Central), Kelsey Myrick (2007-08, Gulfport), and Rachel Givan (2006-2007, Ridgeland) 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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