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**LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jaycie Johnson of Lee's Summit West High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lee's Summit West 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 Johnson as Missouri'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, Johnson 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 senior forward has led the Titans to a 21-2-1 record and a berth in the first round of the Class 3 state tournament against Blue Springs High, scheduled for May 21. Johnson scored 63 goals and passed for eight assists through 24 games, scoring at least one goal in every game but one. The four-time Suburban Big 6 Player of the Year, Johnson is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She entered the state tournament with 192 goals and 35 assists in her prep soccer career.

Johnson has maintained a 3.01 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank in addition to donating her time at youth soccer camps.

"Jaycie Johnson is a very dynamic player," said Huw Williams, Johnson's club coach with Sporting Blue Valley. "She goes at defenders with pace and has the ability to cut either direction effectively. Pace, skill and a will to win define her game."

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

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Allie Stephenson (2011-12, Lee's Summit North High School), Shea Groom (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Liberty High School), Morgan Marlborough (2008-09 Lee's Summit North), Molly Campbell (2007-08, St. Teresa's Academy), and Lauren Fowlkes (2006-2007, St. Teresa's Academy) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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