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**MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Maddie Elliston of Marian High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Elliston is the third Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian 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 Elliston as Nebraska'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, Elliston 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-2 junior defender and midfielder scored one goal and passed for three assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (13-2) to the Class A state semifinals. Elliston anchored a defense that recorded 22 straight shutouts over two years and allowed only five goals on the season. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team, she is the No. 12-rated recruit in the Class of 2014 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Elliston has maintained a weighted 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth soccer coach. She was also one of 16 players across the country selected to complete a mission trip to Nicaragua this summer on behalf of Soccer Without Borders.

"Maddie Elliston is the most incredible teammate you could ever have," said Marcus Kelcher, Elliston's club coach with Elite Girls Academy. "She is so versatile. She is great no matter where you play her."

Elliston has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Penn State University 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.

Elliston joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jackie Tondl (2011-12, Marian High School), Mayme Conroy (2010 - 11, Skutt Catholic High School), Katie Pickinpaugh (2009-10, Millard West), Allie Adam (2008-09 Millard West), and Molly Thomas (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Millard North), 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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