FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Emily Wendorff of Davies High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Wendorff is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Davies 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 Wendorff as North Dakota'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, Wendorff 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-7 senior forward led the Eagles to a 6-0-1 record entering the Eastern Dakota Conference tournament, where they are scheduled to face Devils Lake on May 23. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Wendorff scored six goals and passed for nine assists in the regular season. She is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Wendorff has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Key Club and environmental club, she has volunteered locally as a Sunday school teacher and as a counselor at youth soccer camps.

"Wendorff sees her teammates and she can break defenses down," said Cordell Sinding, head coach at Fargo North High. "She has great touch and great vision."

Wendorff will attend Concordia College this fall, where she will play soccer.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Two-time winner Wendorff joins Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Tessa Neameyer (2010 – 11, Century High School), Jenae Dabill (2009-10, Jamestown), Hannah Langseth (2008-09 Shanley), and Rachael Loomis (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Fargo South), 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.