

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Katie Martin of Highland Park High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Martin is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Highland Park 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 Martin as Texas'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, Martin 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-8 senior midfielder scored 40 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Lady Scots (25-1-5) to the Class 4A state championship game. The two-time District 20-4A Player of the Year and the 2012 All-VYPE Greater Dallas MVP, Martin is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 105 goals and 42 assists.

Martin has maintained an A average in the classroom. The president of the Highland Park High National English Honor Society, she was a member of her school's Robotics Club and Latin Club. She has donated her time locally at the Boys and Girls Club and on behalf of the 65 Roses Foundation to support cystic fibrosis research.

"Katie Martin was unbelievable this season," said Aaron Ziehm, head coach of Little Elm High. "She was pretty much unstoppable in the games she played against us. Without her, Highland Park probably doesn't go to the state tournament."

Martin has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Villanova University 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.

Martin joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jana Jeffrey (2011-12, Ursuline Academy), Meghan Streight (2010 - 11, McKinney Boyd High School), Chioma Ubogagu (2009-10, Coppell), Alina Garciamendez-Rowold (2008-09 Ursuline Academy), Ashley Rape (2007-08, Greenhill School), and Melissa Henderson (2006-2007, Berkner) 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).

###