

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**GEORGETOWN VISITATION PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 6, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Maddie Kulik of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School as its 2013-14 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kulik is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory 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 Kulik as District of Columbia'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, Kulik 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 midfielder scored 22 goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Sharks (7-7-2) to the Independent School League tournament quarterfinals. Kulik was a First Team All-ISL selection and a Washington Post Second Team All-Met honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 66 goals and 26 assists.

Kulik has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with Georgetown Visitation's Key Club as well as the Think Pink organization and has donated her time to a homeless shelter and food bank.

"Maddie Kulik carried her team," said Ross McEwen, head coach of Potomac School. "Maddie was a threat all over the field, played hard for 80 minutes, scored goals to prove her talent, and Visitation wouldn't have been successful without her on the field."

Kulik remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Kulik joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emily Hester (2012-13, National Cathedral School), Kara Wilson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Sidwell Friends School), Taylor Bryant (2009-10, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Bailey Bodell (2008-09, St. John's College High School), and Tiffany McCarty (2007-08 & 2006-07, St. John's College High School), 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.

###