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OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Imani Dorsey of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Dorsey is the second Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Our Lady of Good Counsel 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 Dorsey as Maryland'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, Dorsey 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, NJ.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 senior midfielder led the Falcons to a 13-1-6 record and the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tournament title this past season. Dorsey scored 15 goals and passed for seven assists. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team, Dorsey was an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for both her high school and club play. The 2013 Washington Post All-Met Player of the Year, Dorsey missed most of her junior year with a concussion. She concluded her prep soccer career with 51 goals and 30 assists.

Dorsey has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. The vice president of the Good Counsel National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, as part of food drives for needy families and with a fundraising campaign to benefit multiple sclerosis research.

"Imani Dorsey can impact and change a game in seconds," said Ashly Kennedy, head coach of Archbishop Spalding High, who earned Gatorade Maryland Player of the Year honors in 2002-03. "Imani is very poised and doesn't seem like a threat all the time, but not only can she take a game over, she can also assist in changing a game."

Dorsey has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Duke University beginning this fall.

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.

Dorsey joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Players of the Year Midge Purce (2012-13, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Ashley Spivey (2011-12, McDonogh School), Alex Doll (2010-11 & 2009-10, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School), Caroline Miller (2008-09, Walter Johnson High School), and Christine Nairn (2007-08 & 2006-07, Archbishop Spalding 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.