

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**TAOS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Zoie Hensley of Taos High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hensley is the first Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Taos 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 Hensley as New Mexico'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, Hensley 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-4 senior forward scored 54 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Tigers (14-4) to the Class A-AAA state quarterfinals. The 2013 Class A-AAA State Player of the Year, Hensley scored a goal in 16 of 18 games with 12 multi-goal games, including two four-goal games, two five-goal games, a six-goal game, a seven-goal game and an eight-goal game. She missed both the 2010 and 2012 seasons with a back injury, but nonetheless concluded her prep soccer career with 146 goals and 37 assists.

Hensley has maintained a weighted 4.41 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Taos High student council and an avid artist, she has volunteered locally with the Interact Club and as a peer mentor.

"Zoie Hensley was very good (in 2013)," said David Disko, head coach of Sandia Prep. "She was dangerous because every time she got the ball, she was a threat to score. Zoie was ostensibly the Taos team."

Hensley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Tennessee Tech University beginning 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.

Hensley joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Players of the Year Courtney Riley (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Erika Nelson (2011-12, Hope Christian High School), Victoria Barba (2010-11 & 2008-09, Sandia High School), Jenni White (2009-10, Albuquerque Academy), Courtney Tinnin (2007-08, St. Pius X High School), and Alexis Ball (2006-07, La Cueva 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.

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