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**MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 20, 2014) — In its 29<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 Maddie Elliston of Marian High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Elliston is the third Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian 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 Elliston as Nebraska'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, Elliston 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-2 senior defender and midfielder led the Crusaders to a 17-1 record and a berth in the Class A State Tournament championship game against Millard North High, scheduled for May 19. Elliston scored seven goals and passed for eight assists through 16 games, missing the state tournament quarterfinals and semifinals to participate in a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team. A club Youth All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she is ranked as the nation's No. 8 recruit in the Class of 2014 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Elliston has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A member of Marian High's campus ministry, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and has participated in multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group.

"Maddie is a dangerous player that can cause problems at every position," said April Kelcher, head coach of Papillion-La Vista High. "Her ability to truly read the game and move off the ball and take players on is incredible. She is such a versatile player that would be valuable on any team."

Elliston has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Penn State 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.

Two-time winner Elliston joins Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jackie Tondl (2011-12, Marian High School), Mayme Conroy (2010 - 11, Skutt Catholic High School), Katie Pickinpaugh (2009-10, Millard West), Allie Adam (2008-09, Millard West), and Molly Thomas (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Millard North), 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).

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