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**DURHAM ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Mollie Pathman of Durham Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

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 Pathman as North Carolina'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, Pathman 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.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), 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-3 senior forward and midfielder led the Cavaliers (12-4-1) to the North Carolina Independent Schools Class 3A state quarterfinals this season, recording 29 goals and 10 assists. Also the 2008-09 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Pathman is a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team. A four-time National Soccer Coaches Association of America Youth All-American and a 2009 NSCAA High School All-American, she is the nation's No. 20 recruit in the Class of 2010 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com and concluded her career with 130 goals and 65 assists.

Pathman has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. The 2009 NSCAA Scholar Athlete of the Year, she works at a genetics lab at Duke Medical Center and volunteers locally as a youth soccer coach and as a tutor for Spanish-speaking children.

"What makes Mollie so great is she's the most humble of players," said Pete Sadin, Pathman's coach with the Triangle FC club program. "Knowing her status with the national teams, she doesn't take anything for granted. She keeps working on her game and it translates on the field. She is nonstop as a worker."

Pathman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Duke 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Pathman joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Nicole Danford (2007-08, Green Hope) and Nicole Panek (2006-07, Mount Tabor) 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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