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**THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 11, 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 Kate McCarthy of The Loomis Chaffee School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year. McCarthy is the third Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Loomis Chaffee 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 McCarthy as Connecticut'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, McCarthy 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-7 senior midfielder recorded 10 goals and eight assists this past season, leading the Pelicans (16-1-3) to their second straight New England Private School Athletic Conference Class A championship game. A two-time ESPN RISE Third Team All-American and a three-time National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-New England selection, McCarthy concluded her high school career with 53 goals and 44 assists.

McCarthy has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered as a youth soccer instructor in her hometown of Longmeadow, Mass., and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Loomis athletics.

"With Kate McCarthy, it's her work rate that's the difference—she doesn't stop running," said Rudy Meredith, McCarthy's club coach with Connecticut FC. "She's a relentless worker. That's why she has the most impact. She drives other teams crazy because she doesn't stop working. She has the same effectiveness all the time."

McCarthy has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Boston College 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.

McCarthy joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jessica Schloth (2008-09, St. Joseph), Alex Uscilla (2007-08, St. Joseph), and Bianca D'Agostino (2006-07, The Loomis Chaffee 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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