

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**GEORGETOWN VISITATION PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Taylor Bryant of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School as its 2009-10 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Bryant is the second Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory 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 Bryant as District of Columbia'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, Bryant 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-8 senior defender recorded five goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Cubs (12-3-2) to their second straight Independent School League Tournament championship. A *Washington Post* First Team All-Met selection, Bryant anchored a defense that allowed just 23 goals and posted 16 shutouts during the past two seasons.

Bryant has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered as a youth soccer instructor and at an area food bank. Bryant also completed a service mission to Peru, where she worked at an orphanage.

"She's tough, she's strong and she's great in the air," said Katherine Vettori, Bryant's future coach at Loyola University. "She's a force out on the field. She provides a physical dimension that others don't have. She'll step in and contribute for us right away."

Bryant has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Loyola 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.

Bryant joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Bailey Bodell (2008-09, St. John's) and Tiffany McCarty (2007-08 & 2006-07, St. John's) 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).

###