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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**SACRED HEART ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 11, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jackie Hafele of Sacred Heart Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hafele is the fourth Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sacred Heart Academy.

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 Hafele as Kentucky'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, Hafele 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-11 senior midfielder recorded 11 goals and 10 assists this past season, leading the Valkyries (19-1-2) to their third consecutive state championship. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association's Miss Soccer for 2009 and an ESPN RISE Third Team All-American selection, Hafele is a three-time First Team All-State pick and an All-American honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Hafele has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a school for autistic children and at a center for mentally challenged adults.

"Jackie Hafele with her size, especially on set pieces, can be very dominating," said Rob Zoeller, head coach of rival Elizabethtown High. "You take Jackie off the field, you see a different team. For her size and how imposing she can be in the air, Jackie is the best."

Hafele has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Indiana's Butler 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.

Hafele joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Nikki Hafele (2008-09, Sacred Heart Academy), Jenna Goblirsch (2007-08, Elizabethtown), and Sydney Hiance (2006-07, Lands) 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.

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