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**BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Allison Walton of Brunswick High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Walton is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Brunswick 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 Walton as Maine'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, Walton 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-6 junior forward recorded 30 goals and 13 assists this past season, leading the Dragons (19-1) to the Class A state championship. A First Team All-State selection and a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-New England honoree, Walton scored two goals for Brunswick High in its 3-1 win over Thornton High in the state title game. Walton has recorded 53 goals and 26 assists to this point in her varsity career.

Walton has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of the National Junior Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor.

"Allie Walton's a very good player," said Keith Caldwell, Walton's coach with the Scorpions Soccer Club. "She's fast, she's fit, she works her butt off. She plays like a guy—pretty technical and a good goal-scorer. She's a good player."

Walton will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Walton joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Players of the Year Elise Amioka (2008-09, Marshwood), Rachele Burns (2007-08, Gorham), and Kelsey Wilson (2006-07, Gorham) 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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