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**WOODBURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Kassey Kallman of Woodbury High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kallman is the fourth Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodbury 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 Kallman as Minnesota'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, Kallman 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 six goals and nine assists this past season, leading the Royals (21-1-1) to the Class AA state championship match. The Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association's Class AA Miss Soccer, Kallman was the *Minneapolis Star Tribune's* Player of the Year and an ESPN RISE First Team All-American selection. Kallman anchored a defense that allowed just six goals all season.

Kallman has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of her church community and as part of a local youth-mentoring program. Kallman has also donated her time at an area assisted living facility and as a youth soccer instructor.

"Kassey Kallman swept, she came up, she attacked, she was an all-around player," said Greg Juba, head coach of rival Park High. "She was fast, but she had good skills. I like how she understands the game. She's like the quarterback on their team."

Kallman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Florida State 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.

Kallman joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Catie Sessions (2008-09, Woodbury), Krista Lundgren (2007-08, Lakeville South), and Angie Olson (2006-07, Eagan) 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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