

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Tess Hagenlock of Bozeman High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hagenlock is the third Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Hagenlock as Montana'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, Hagenlock 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-5 senior forward and midfielder recorded 14 goals and nine assists this past season, leading the Hawks (11-3-1) to the Class AA state championship game. A *Great Falls Tribune* Super State First Team selection and a three-time First Team All-State honoree, Hagenlock is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1992 Region IV Olympic Development Program player pool. Hagenlock finished her high school career with 36 goals and 29 assists despite missing her entire junior season because of a knee injury.

Hagenlock has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of her church community and the Special Olympics. Hagenlock has also donated her time locally at a food bank and as a youth soccer instructor.

"Tess Hagenlock is the best player in the state, technically, tactically and how she values the game," said Jamie Rizzuto, a coach with the Montana ODP program. "Hagenlock is an excellent dribbler and has the speed you want. Overall, she does an excellent job. She knows what she needs to do and makes those players around her that much better."

Hagenlock remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hagenlock joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lauren Hickok (2008-09, Bozeman), Meghan O'Connell (2007-08, Flathead), and Kirsten Tilleman (2006-07, Bozeman) 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.

###