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**THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Kaitlyn Kerr of The Pennington School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kerr is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Pennington 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 Kerr as New Jersey'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, Kerr 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 midfielder recorded 14 goals and 20 assists this past season, leading the Red Raiders (16-1-2) to their seventh consecutive New Jersey Prep A state championship. Also the 2008-09 Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year in New Jersey, Kerr led the FC Bucks Vipers club team to the United States Youth Soccer Under-17 Club Championships in July 2009. An ESPN RISE First Team All-American selection, she tallied four assists in Pennington's 4-0 win over the Hun School in the state title game to conclude her high school career with 51 goals and 51 assists.

Kerr has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. A member of multiple Pennington School clubs, she has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research and pancreatic cancer research. Kerr has also donated her time locally at an assisted living facility and a rehabilitation clinic.

"Kait Kerr is a graceful, skilled, athletic player," said Steve Silver, head coach of Immaculate Heart Academy, which played Pennington School during the 2009 season. "She's difficult to contain; she's a playmaker."

Kerr has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Duke 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.

Kerr joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Players of the Year Shannon Mayrose (2007-08, Freehold) and Ingrid Wells (2006-07, Montclair) 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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