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**ALBUQUERQUE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Jenni White of Albuquerque Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year. White is the first Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Albuquerque 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 White as New Mexico'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, White 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-7 senior defender, midfielder and forward recorded nine goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Chargers (18-4) to the Class 4A state championship. The Class 4A Player of the Year and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, White started her career as a forward, but shifted to defense as a senior due to hole in the back line created by a teammate's injury. A three-time First Team All-State selection, White concluded her high school career with 53 goals and 32 assists.

White has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A Special Olympics volunteer, she has also donated her time locally at a food bank and as a youth soccer instructor for underprivileged children.

"Jenni White has been a center forward and a defender. Her adaptability is better than everyone else," said Rick Smith, head coach at rival Sandia Prep. "She reads the game very well from the back, and she can make the runs up front that create opportunities to score. White's a player we couldn't get by on defense, and we struggled to mark her playing forward. She really blossomed into a very good player."

White will attend Trinity College in Texas this fall, where she will play soccer.

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.

White joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Players of the Year Victoria Barba (2008-09, Sandia), Courtney Tinnin (2007-08, St. Pius X), and Alexis Ball (2006-07, La Cueva) 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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