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**SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Crystal Dunn of South Side High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Dunn is the second Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Side 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 Dunn as New York'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, Dunn 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-2 senior forward recorded 20 goals and 13 assists this past season, leading the Cyclones (18-0-2) to their third Class A state championship in her four varsity campaigns. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-20 Women's National Team, Dunn scored four goals in South Side's 6-0 victory over Greece Arcadia in the title game. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Dunn was also an ESPN RISE First Team All-American and the New York State Class A Player of the Year.

Dunn has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the South Side High Principal's Advisory Council, she has volunteered locally at youth soccer camps and on behalf of special needs students in the district.

"She's the quickest player I've ever seen—in high school, college or professionally," said Bruce Stegner, head coach of rival Massapequa High School. "She's got great control of the ball at that speed too. She's just a huge difference maker."

Dunn has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Dunn joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kim DeCesare (2008-09, Massapequa), Alaina Beyar (2007-08, South Side), and Hannah Cerrone (2006-07, Ketcham) 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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