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**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Sarah Bridges of Jesuit High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Bridges is the fifth Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Bridges as Oregon'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, Bridges 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 midfielder recorded nine goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (17-1) to the Class 6A state championship. *The Oregonian's* Class 6A Player of the Year, Bridges scored the game-winning goal in Jesuit's 2-0 victory over Westview High in the title game. The ESPN RISE First Team All-American concluded her high school career with 32 goals and 19 assists.

Bridges has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen, a nursing home and as part of the Jesuit High Food Drive Committee. Bridges has also donated her time on behalf of her church community and by mentoring disadvantaged children as part of a Police Activity League (PAL) summer program.

"She's athletic, she can strike a ball with either foot and she covers so much ground," said Brandon McNeil, an assistant coach with the University of Portland. "She's improved just so much over her high school career. She was always a good athlete; now she's become a good soccer player. She's honed her game. It's such a credit to her."

Bridges has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Portland 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.

Bridges joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kendall Johnson (2008-09, Lincoln) and Courtney Verloo (2007-08 & 2006-07, Tualatin) 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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