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**LA SALLE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Allison Kelley of La Salle Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kelley is the fourth Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from La Salle 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 Kelley as Rhode Island'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, Kelley 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-3 senior midfielder recorded 14 goals and 14 assists this past season, leading the Rams (20-0), to the Division I state championship. Also the 2008-09 Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year in Rhode Island, Kelley is a two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and a two-time *Providence Journal* All-State First Team selection. Kelley concluded her high school career with 47 goals and 39 assists.

Kelley has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a youth sports club and as a baby-sitter.

"There are so many different words to describe what she brings to a team," said Tom Flanders, head coach of rival Warwick Vets High. "In the past five to 10 years, if I could grab a kid and put her on my team, it would be her. This kid is the real deal. She's unbelievable."

Kelley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Central Connecticut State 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.

Kelley joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Katie Reilly (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View) and Erica Florenz (2006-07, Scituate) 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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