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**RICE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Brittany Pfaff of Rice Memorial High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Pfaff is the second Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rice Memorial 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 Pfaff as Vermont'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, Pfaff 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-6 senior recorded 40 goals and eight assists this past season, leading the Knights (14-3-1) to the Division I semifinals. Pfaff finished her career with 107 goals, second-most in Div. I history. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Pfaff has earned First Team All-State from the Burlington Free Press in each of the last three seasons.

Pfaff has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of fundraising campaigns to feed the hungry and as a coach for local youth sports teams.

"She was just an incredible contributor for that team," said Bill O'Neill, head coach of rival Essex High School. "She has great speed and her ability with the ball is outstanding. She's got a real nose for the goal and she's an exceptionally determined player."

Pfaff has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at New York's Siena College 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.

Pfaff joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Players of the Year Natalie LeClair (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex) and Emily Milbank (2006-07, Champlain Valley Union) 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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