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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**EASTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Lindsay Elston of Eastlake High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Elston is the second Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Eastlake 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 Elston as Washington'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, Elston 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 seven goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Wolves (14-5-1) to the first round of the Class 4A state tournament. A Class 4A First Team All-State selection and the King County Class 4A Conference MVP, Elston is a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team player pool. She concluded her high school career with a total of 14 goals and 17 assists.

Elston has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and lifeguard as well as on behalf of her church community.

"Lindsay Elston is very versatile; she can play a ton of different roles," said Scott Newman, the state U.S. Youth Soccer Girls Olympic Development Program Director. "She has had ODP experience as an outside back, an outside midfielder, even as a forward. Having coached her and against her, she's a kid you have to be careful with. You have to set up your team to try to deny her goal-scoring opportunities. She's dangerous on the ball, she can slash, she can cut, she can whip in crosses and she can shoot."

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

Elston joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emily Hurd (2008-09, Eastlake) and Kate Deines (2007-08 & 2006-07, Issaquah) 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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