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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**SPAIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Annalika Steyn of Spain Park High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Steyn is the third Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Spain Park 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 Steyn as Alabama'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, Steyn 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 junior forward led the Jaguars (22-4-2) to their second straight Class 6A state championship this past season, recording 19 goals and nine assists. A two-time MVP of the Class 6A State Tournament, Steyn scored both goals for Spain Park in its 2-1 win over Grissom in the state championship game. The nation's No. 97 recruit in the Class of 2011 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Steyn is a three-year member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program and has recorded 38 goals and 20 assists in her prep career.

Steyn has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics, as a youth soccer instructor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Annalika's physical presence—she's so big and strong, and she's so technical for a big, strong girl—is impressive," said Eric Dade, director of coaching for the Birmingham United Soccer Association club program. "She's got a good sense of the game. She has all the tools."

Steyn has verbally committed to play soccer on scholarship at the University of West Virginia beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Steyn joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lauren Arnold (2008-09, Spain Park), Mary Nicholson (2007-08, Vestavia Hills), and Victoria Frederick (2006-07, Huntsville) 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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