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SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE ALASKA 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 Tricia Stonebraker of Service High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stonebraker is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Service 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 Stonebraker as Alaska'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, Stonebraker 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-4 senior midfielder had recorded 19 goals and 10 assists at the time of her selection, leading the Cougars (11-0-1) to an unbeaten record entering their May 12 regular-season clash with Dimond. An All-American honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in 2008, Stonebraker was an All-Region selection each of the last two years and has graced the All-State Tournament team roster for three consecutive seasons.

Stonebraker has maintained a 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and on behalf of the Salvation Army.

"She's a small kid, but she has great technical ability," said Matt Dusenberry, head coach of rival Juneau-Douglas High. "Everything that team does goes through her."

Stonebraker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Loyola University Chicago 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.

Stonebraker joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alev Kelter (2008-09 & 2007-08, Chugiak) and Carly Butcher (2006-07, South Anchorage) 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.