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HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA 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 Hilary Zenuk of Highland High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Zenuk is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Highland 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 Zenuk as Arizona'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, Zenuk 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-7 senior midfielder led the Hawks (22-3-2) to the Class 5A-Division I state semifinals this past season, recording five goals and 15 assists. A two-time *Arizona Republic* First Team All-Arizona selection, Zenuk was the 2010 Fiesta Region Player of the Year. She concluded her varsity career as Highland's all-time leading scorer with 37 goals and 88 assists.

Zenuk has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a food bank and as a youth soccer coach.

"Hilary Zenuk is that kid that everybody talks about," said Greg Johnson, head coach of rival Dobson High. "When she went down with an injury this season in high school, everyone thought 'Highland is beatable now.' None of us ever want to have to deal with her."

Zenuk will attend the University of Arizona 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.

Zenuk joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jessica Petznick (2008-09, Xavier College Prep) and Brittany Cole (2007-08 & 2006-07, Corona del Sol) 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.