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**VIERA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Katie Stengel of Viera High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stengel is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Viera 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 Stengel as Florida'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, Stengel 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-9 senior forward led the Hawks (17-3) to the Class 5A state tournament round of 16 this past season, recording 48 goals and 14 assists. The 2009 Class 4A State Player of the Year, Stengel is a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team. The 2010 Space Coast Player of the Year, Stengel concluded her prep career with 170 goals and 44 assists.

Stengel has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's student government, she has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign for Haiti Relief, as a peer math tutor and as a youth soccer coach.

"Katie Stengel is just so dominant," said Fidgi Haig, Stengel's coach with the Space Coast United club program. "She has technical ability combined with speed and determination. She's a good finisher. She strikes the ball really well. She's just a complete player."

Stengel has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Wake Forest University 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.

Stengel joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Laura Weinberg (2008-09, Saint Andrew's School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite), and Ella Stephan (2006-07, Satellite) 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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