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**ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced MacKenzie Misel of Ankeny High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Misel is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Ankeny 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 Misel as Iowa'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, Misel 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-5 senior forward, midfielder and defender had led the Hawkettes (9-0) to the No. 1 ranking in Class 2A at the time of her selection, recording nine goals and seven assists. A 2009 ESPN RISE Honorable Mention All-American, Misel was a 2009 Elite All-State selection and is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program. She had recorded 64 goals and 29 assists in her prep career at the time of her selection.

Misel has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer and cystic fibrosis research.

"She can play numerous positions and is very, very flexible when it comes to that," said John Sheridan, the director of coaching with the Johnston United club program. "With the game changing so much, you have to be able to get fullbacks into the attack, and she can do it on both ends of the field."

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

Misel joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jade Grimm (2008-09, Kennedy) and Whitney Sharpe (2007-08 & 2006-07, Valley) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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