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**BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Ashley Catrell of Blue Valley West High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Catrell is the third Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley West 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 Catrell as Kansas' 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, Catrell 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.).

Entering the Wildcats' regular-season finale scheduled for May 14, the 5-foot-5 senior forward had led Blue Valley (12-3) to a berth in the Class 6A postseason tournament, which begins May 18. At the time of her selection, Catrell had recorded 19 goals and 11 assists. A two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection, she is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program. The nation's No. 75 recruit in the Class of 2010 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Catrell had scored a school-record 81 goals in her prep career through 15 games this season.

Catrell has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a special education tutor, as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"She's got a natural ability and a nose for the goal," said Jon Parry, Catrell's coach with the Blue Valley Stars club program. "She's very good 1-on-1 and does a very good job taking people on. The other part of her game that's gotten better is she's starting to steal balls and get second chances on attack. She finds a way to set up her shot all the time and she's deadly."

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

Catrell joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Jackson (2008-09 & 2007-08, Blue Valley West) and Geneva Magness (2006-07, St. Thomas Aquinas) 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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