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**SPRING LAKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Annie Steinlage of Spring Lake High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

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 Steinlage as Michigan'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, Steinlage 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-10 senior forward has led the Lakers (14-0-1) to the top ranking in Division 2 and had recorded 28 goals and 18 assists at the time of her selection with the regular season still in progress. Also the 2008-09 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Steinlage is a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team player pool as a defender. She is a 2009 Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Dream Team selection and a two-time Division 2 First Team All-State honoree. The nation's No. 74 recruit in the Class of 2010 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Steinlage had recorded 85 goals and 47 assists in her prep career through 15 games this season.

Steinlage has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a coach and trainer for special needs children and she completed a service mission to an Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where she helped build houses.

"Annie's work ethic and attitude are extremely contagious," said Jim Kimble, Steinlage's coach with the Michigan Hawks club program. "We go as far as Annie takes us. She demands a lot out of herself and out of her teammates. She makes the players around her much better by nature of the way she approaches things."

Steinlage has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Michigan State 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.

Steinlage joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year Laura Heyboer (2007-08 & 2006-07, Unity Christian) 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.