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**CUMBERLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Cassie Pecht of Cumberland Valley High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Pecht is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cumberland Valley 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 Pecht as Pennsylvania'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, Pecht 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-3 sophomore midfielder had led the Eagles to a 15-2-1 record entering the Mid-Penn Conference Tournament championship game, scheduled for May 13. At the time of her selection, she had scored 11 goals and passed for 13 assists. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-17 Women's National Team, Pecht was a 2009 *Patriot News* Big 11 selection and a 2009 *Carlisle Sentinel* First Team All-Area honoree. She is the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2012 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com and had recorded 29 goals and 31 assists in her prep career through 18 games this season.

Pecht has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor, and she obtained a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to create the "Eagle Foundation Project—A Teenage Survival Guide," a set of guidelines summarizing federal and state laws that impact teenagers once they reach the age of 18, which will be distributed to teens throughout the school district.

"Cassie Pecht, while small in stature, plays bigger than most players," said Erin DeMarco, a coach with the U.S. Youth Soccer Region I Olympic Development Program. "She's someone who you think might get pushed off the ball, but it doesn't happen at all. She has the technical ability to beat players one-on-one, but she can also challenge players and strip them and go the other way. She's a tireless, energizer bunny."

Pecht will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Pecht joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Schram (2008-09, Canon-McMillan), Lauren Alwine (2007-08, Lower Dauphin), and Colleen Flanagan (2006-07, Downingtown West) 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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