

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**LARAMIE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 Makenzie Meade of Laramie High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Meade is the second Gatorade Wyoming Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Laramie 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 Meade as Wyoming'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, Meade 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-6 senior forward had recorded 17 goals and six assists at the time of her selection, leading the Plainsmen (8-3-1) to the Class 4A semifinals, scheduled for May 14. A First Team All-State selection each of the last two seasons, Meade has scored a state-record 62 career goals.

Meade has maintained a 3.12 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics.

"She's very tenacious," said Jim Gardner, head coach of rival Cheyenne East. "She's got good moves, she's strong to the ball and she does a great job finishing."

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

Meade joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ariela Schreibeis (2008-09 & 2007-08, Laramie) and Crystal Umphlett (2006-07, Cody) 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.

###