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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 10, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Sofia Huerta of Centennial High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Huerta is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Huerta as Idaho'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, Huerta 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-7 senior midfielder recorded 53 goals and 17 assists this past season, leading the Patriots (15-3-2) to fifth place in the Class 5A state tournament. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Huerta is a two-time Southern Idaho Conference 5A Player of the Year and earned 2010 Second Team All-American honors from ESPN RISE. She concluded her prep soccer career with a state-record 121 goals and 44 assists.

Huerta has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer and basketball instructor and with the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer, a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities. Huerta has also donated her time to Rake Up Boise, performing landscaping work for area elderly and disabled families.

"There are not many people who can do what Sofia Huerta does," said Mike Mollay, Huerta's club coach with Les Bois Soccer Club. "Players might be more technical or more soccer savvy, but what she brings on the athletic side and the mental side, there are very few players who can do what she does on the athletic side of things."

Huerta has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Santa Clara 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.

Two-time winner Huerta joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Miah Mollay (2008-09, Boise High School), and Halley Kreminski (2007-08, Eagle High School) 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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