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**BILLINGS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 10, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jackie Elliott of Billings Central Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Elliott is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Central Catholic 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 Elliott as Montana'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, Elliott 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 6-foot senior forward led the Rams to a 15-0 record and their third straight Class A state championship this past season. Elliott scored 11 goals and passed for a Class A single-season record 14 assists, tallying a goal in Billings Central's 4-1 win over Whitefish in the state title game. A four-time Class A All-State selection, Elliott scored at least one goal in each of the Rams' three state championship games. She concluded her prep soccer career as the Class A career leader in goals with 64 and assists with 44.

Elliott has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A 13-time Academic All-State selection for soccer, basketball, track and band, she has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and as a counselor at youth soccer and basketball camps. Elliott was named 2010 Future Scientist of the Year at the Montana State Science Fair.

"Jackie Elliott has consistently been the dominant force in Class A girls soccer in the state of Montana," said Rich Brauss, head coach of rival Belgrade High. "Her soccer skills, physical strength and size, intelligent decision-making, leadership attributes and stellar play have been key to her team's winning three consecutive state championships."

Elliott has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Montana 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.

Elliott joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Tess Hagenlock (2009-10, Bozeman), Lauren Hickok (2008-09, Bozeman High School), and Meghan O'Connell (2007-08, Flathead 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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