Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

RED BANK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Danielle Colaprico of Red Bank Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Colaprico is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Red Bank 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 Colaprico as New Jersey'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, Colaprico 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 senior midfielder led the Caseys to a 23-1-1 record and the Non-Public A Co-Championship this past season. Colaprico scored 22 goals and passed for 10 assists. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team, she was a 2010 ESPN RISE Second Team All-American and a two-time Asbury Park Press Player of the Year. Colaprico concluded her prep soccer career with 70 goals and 35 assists.

Colaprico has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Hot Topics Club that addressed important student issues, she has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit the Special Olympics.

"Danielle Colaprico is one of the best players to ever come through our club," said Mike Gould, Colaprico's club coach with Players Development Academy. "In the championship game when stuff comes on the line, Colaprico's going to win a game for you. She's the player who's going to make the difference."

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

Colaprico joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Kaitlyn Kerr (2009-10 & 2008-09, The Pennington School), and Shannon Mayrose (2007-08, Freehold 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.