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**RYE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Tatiana Saunders of Rye High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Saunders is the first Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rye 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 Saunders as New York'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, Saunders 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-9 senior goalkeeper recorded 16 shutouts and a 0.25 goals-against average this past season, leading the Garnets (22-1) to the Class A state final and a No. 8 national ranking in the ESPN RISE Fab 50. A starter for England's Under-19 Women's National Team, Saunders is a two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, an ESPN RISE Second Team All-American, the New York State Class A Player of the Year and the Journal News Player of the Year.

Saunders has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also an accomplished violinist, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs, a Bronx-area soup kitchen and Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse.

"She's the best goalie I have ever seen at the high school level," said Bryan Horn, head coach of rival Byram Hills High. "She's vocal from the back, she's agile in both directions, she can leap and she knows when to come out of her net."

Saunders will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where she will play soccer

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.

Saunders joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Crystal Dunn (2009-10, South Side), Kim DeCesare (2008-09, Massapequa High School), and Alaina Beyar (2007-08, South Side 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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