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**LIVINGSTON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Kat Nigro of Livingston Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Nigro is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Livingston Academy.

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 Nigro as Tennessee'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, Nigro 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-5 senior midfielder recorded 58 goals and 27 assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (12-6-1) to the Division I A/AA sectional tournament. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Nigro was a 2010 ESPN RISE Third-Team All-American and a National Soccer Coaches Association of America High School Scholar All-American. A four-time First Team All-State selection, Nigro concluded her prep soccer career with 163 goals and 87 assists.

Nigro has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of multiple Livingston Academy academic clubs, she has volunteered locally with blood-donation drives and at area homeless shelters and food banks. She also donated her time to cleanup efforts after the Nashville floods of May, 2010.

"Kat Nigro has tons of natural talent and ability, but it's her extra drive and determination to get better that makes her stand out," said Andy Stoots, Nigro's club coach with Brentwood Soccer Club. "When she gets on the field it's her ability to impact a game and impact other players. She makes other players better. That's not an ability that a lot of other kids have."

Nigro has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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 Nigro joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year two-time winner Susannah Dennis (2008-09 & 2007-08, Battle Ground Academy) 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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