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**CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Sami Molina of Cabell Midland High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Molina is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cabell Midland 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 Molina as West Virginia'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, Molina 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-2 senior forward recorded 21 goals and 17 assists this past season, leading the Knights (14-6-2) to the Class AAA Region 4 semifinals. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Molina was the 2009 West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association Class AAA Forward of the Year. Molina concluded her prep soccer career as Cabell Midland's career leader in goals with 91 and assists with 32.

Molina has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Sami Molina's very powerful and has an incredible knowledge of the game," said Marty Martinez, Molina's former club coach with Charleston FC. "I think she's a game-changer. She finds the ball and when she gets it she's dangerous. She has the ability, which a lot of players don't, to take players one-on-one."

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

Molina joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Whitney Cavender (2009-10, University), Sarah Cogswell (2008-09, Jefferson High School), and Megan Johnson (2007-08, George Washington 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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