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**SPAIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 12, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Simone Charley of Spain Park High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Charley is the fourth Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Spain Park 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 Charley as Alabama'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, Charley 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.), 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-7 sophomore forward has led the Jaguars to a 23-3-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A state semifinals against Hoover High, scheduled for May 13. Charley scored 27 goals and passed for 12 assists through 27 games. The 2011 *Birmingham News* Metro Player of the Year, Charley is a three-year starter who has recorded 66 goals in her prep soccer career.

Charley has maintained a 3.97 weighted GPA in the classroom. The 2011 Class 6A champion in the triple jump with a state-record leap of 40 feet, 3 inches, she has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and at a food bank in addition to assisting with relief efforts for Alabama tornado victims.

"Simone Charley is a special athlete, for sure," said Robert Starr, head coach of Spain Park High. "She is incredibly quick and fine-tuning her skills every day. She's had a big impact for us this year. She's a difference-maker."

Charley will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Charley joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Annalika Steyn, (2009-10, Spain Park), Lauren Arnold (2008-09, Spain Park), and Mary Nicholson (2007-08, Vestavia Hills) 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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