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**INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Caitlin Forte of Indian River High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Forte is the first Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Indian River 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 Forte as Delaware'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, Forte 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-3 senior forward has led the Indians to a 10-2 record entering this week's regular-season contest with Seaford, scheduled for May 12. Forte scored 15 goals and passed for 13 assists through 12 games. She was a First Team All-State selection each of the last two seasons.

Forte has maintained an A-plus average in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

"Forte is very dynamic," said Ryan Buchanan, head coach of rival Smyrna High. "She's got great speed, she plays well with both feet and she's always dangerous with the ball."

Forte has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Villanova University 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.

Forte joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Jazmine Reeves, (2008-09 & 2009-10, Caesar Rodney) and Morgan Morrow (2007-08, Padua 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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