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**TRINITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Meg Casscells-Hamby of Trinity Preparatory School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Casscells-Hamby is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Preparatory 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 Casscells-Hamby as Florida'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, Casscells-Hamby 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-4 senior forward recorded 36 goals and 21 assists this past season, leading the Saints (20-3-2) to the Class 2A state championship game. The 2011 *Orlando Sentinel* Player of the Year, Casscells-Hamby is a four-time Class 2A First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 86 goals and 61 assists.

Casscells-Hamby has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. A violin player in the Florida Young Artist Orchestra Symphony, she founded "Hearts for Haiti," an annual concert that raises money for Haitian relief efforts. She has also volunteered locally with U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer, a community-based training and team program for young athletes with disabilities.

"She was the most valuable player in the state in high school this year," said Patrick Baker, Casscells-Hamby's club coach with the Ocoee-based Florida Rush. "You're talking about a future Ivy League Player of the Year who is so humble and makes everybody around her better. There probably will never be another player of that caliber at her school."

Casscells-Hamby will attend Harvard University 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.

Casscells-Hamby joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Katie Stengel, (2009-10, Viera), Laura Weinberg (2008-09, Saint Andrew's School), and Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite) 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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