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FREDERICA ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE GEORGIA 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 **Morgan Brian of Frederica Academy** as its **2010-11 Gatorade Georgia Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Brian is the first Gatorade Georgia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Frederica 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 Brian as Georgia'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, Brian 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 senior midfielder led the Knights to a 14-2-1 record and a berth in the Georgia Independent School Association Class AA state quarterfinals against Westminster Christian Academy, scheduled for May 11. At the time of her selection, Brian had scored 53 goals and passed for 21 assists. The 2009-10 Gatorade Georgia Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Brian was the 2010 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Youth Player of the Year and the 2010 PARADE National Player of the Year. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-20 Women's National Team, she has recorded 168 goals and 86 assists in her prep soccer career entering the postseason round of eight.

Brian has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. A member of her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach, and she is a co-organizer and lead fundraiser for "Many Hearts One Goal," a foundation to benefit the Under-17 Haitian Women's National Team.

"To me, Morgan Brian is the best player in the United States," said Luis Torres, Brian's club coach with the Ponte Vedra (Fla.) Storm. "The biggest thing with Morgan is her brain. There's decision-making like I've never seen before. This kid is the smartest soccer player I've ever coached."

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

Two-time winner Brian joins recent Gatorade Georgia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Laura Eddy (2008-09, Marist School) and Ashley Baker (2007-08, Parkview) 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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