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**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Rose Ripslinger of Assumption High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ripslinger is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Ripslinger as Iowa'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, Ripslinger 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-5 freshman forward has led the Knights to an 11-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest against Burlington High, scheduled for May 12. Ripslinger scored 16 goals and passed for five assists through 12 games. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1995 Region II Olympic Development Program Team, she is also a sprinter on the Assumption track and field team this spring.

Ripslinger has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. A member of the high school choir, she has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and nursing home in addition to volunteering for programs serving handicap development residents.

"When you put the full components of the game together: technical ability, tactical ability, mental, physical, Rose Ripslinger has it," said Justin Vorster, an Iowa Soccer Association ODP coach. "She's strong on the ball, has a good first touch and is good in the air. Rose has unbelievable speed, but she has nice touch to go with it as well. Every now and again you get one of these girls who comes through who just shines and does exceptionally well."

Ripslinger will begin her sophomore 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.

Ripslinger joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year MacKenzie Misel, (2009-10, Ankeny), Jade Grimm (2008-09, Kennedy), and Whitney Sharpe (2007-08, Valley) 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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