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**ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Katherine Cuntz of St. Mary's Dominican High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Cuntz is the second Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mary's Dominican 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 Cuntz as Louisiana'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, Cuntz 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-1 senior midfielder recorded 12 goals and 15 assists this past season, leading St. Mary's Dominican High to the Division I state championship. The state Division I Player of the Year, Cuntz was also MVP of the state title game and honored as the *Times-Picayune* Offensive Player of the Year. She concluded her prep career with 79 goals and 66 assists.

Cuntz has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth soccer camps.

"Cuntz is very skilled, and a complete team player," said Shaun Crochet, head coach of Hahnville High. "She excels at distributing the ball to those around her, controlling the midfield with her touch and decision-making."

Cuntz has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Louisiana-Monroe 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.

Cuntz joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emily Cancienne, (2009-10, Baton Rouge Magnet), Tricia Johnson (2008-09, St. Scholastica Academy), and Kellie Murphy (2007-08, St. Thomas More Catholic) 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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