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**PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 12, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Lauren Kaskie of Palo Verde High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kaskie is the second Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Palo Verde 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 Kaskie as Nevada'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, Kaskie 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 sophomore midfielder recorded 10 goals and 10 assists this past season, leading the Panthers (14-3-3) to the Class 4A Sunset Region semifinals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-17 Women's National Team, Kaskie was the Northwest League Player of the Year and a First Team All-Sunset Region selection. She is the No. 8 recruit in the Class of 2013 as ranked by *TopDrawerSoccer.com*.

Kaskie has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally by delivering charitable donations to needy families and on behalf of Children Mending Hearts, an arts organization for homeless children.

"Lauren is a very solid player all-around and has a good understanding of the game," said Jen Klein, the girls director of the Nevada Youth Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program. "She can play anywhere on the field. She proves that in high school, club and even the national team—she plays different positions for all of them."

Kaskie will begin her junior 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.

Kaskie joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Players of the Year McKenzie Karas, (2009-10, Arbor View), Zakiya Bywaters (2008-09, Rancho), and Jenna Riddle (2007-08, Centennial) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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